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THE NEW MUTANTS
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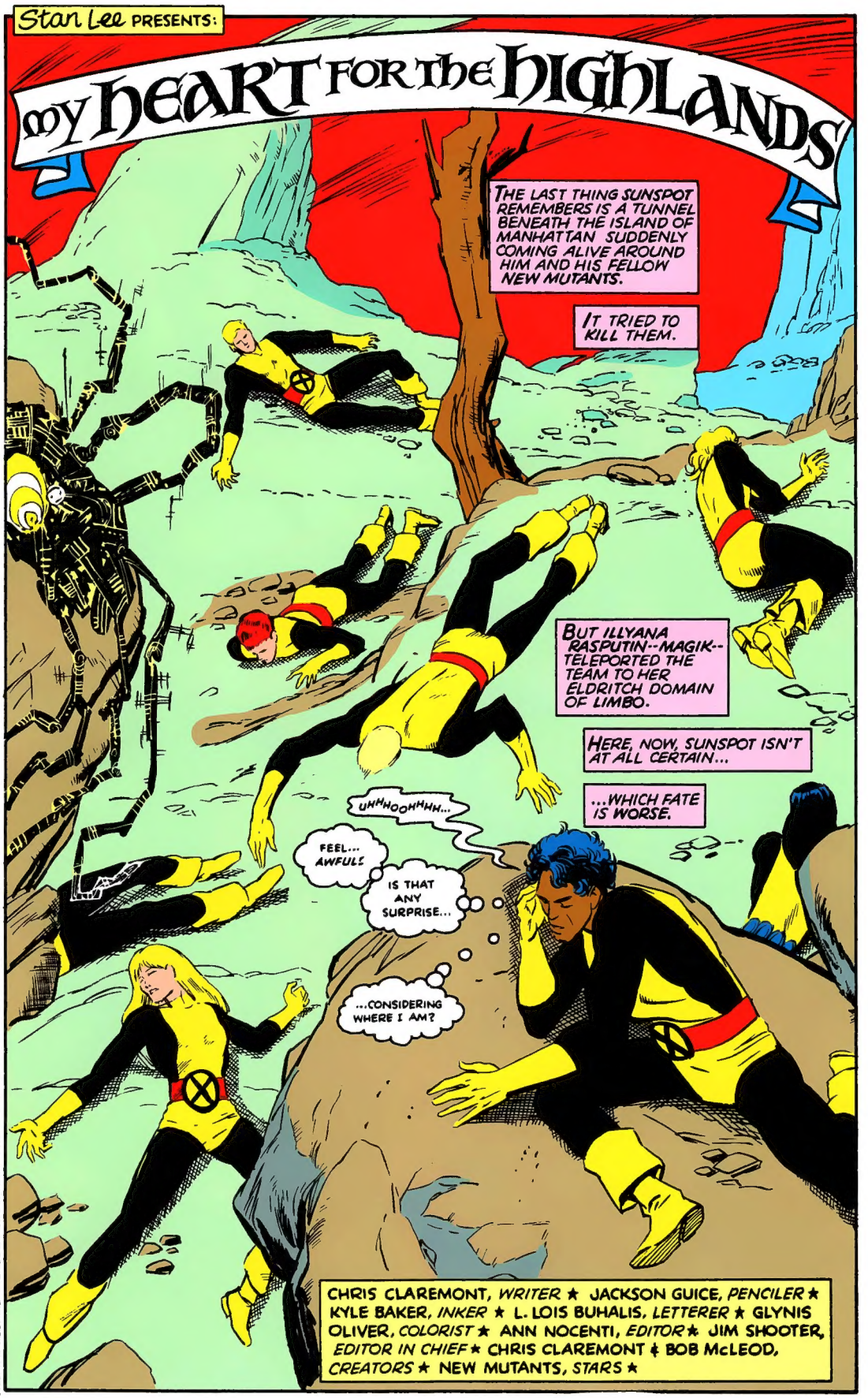
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
MY HEART FOR THE HIGHLANDS
THE LAST THING SUNSPOT REMEMBERS IS A TUNNEL BENEATH THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN SUDDENLY COMING ALIVE AROUND HIM AND HIS FELLOW NEW MUTANTS.
IT TRIED TO KILL THEM.
BUT ILLYANA RASPUTIN--MAGIK--TELEPORTED THE TEAM TO HER ELDRITCH DOMAIN OF LIMBO.
HERE, NOW, SUNSPOT ISN'T AT ALL CERTAIN...
...WHICH FATE IS WORSE.
UHHHOOHHHH...
FEEL... AWFUL!
IS THAT ANY SURPRISE...
...CONSIDERING WHERE I AM?
CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER ★ JACKSON GUICE, PENCILER ★ KYLE BAKER, INKER ★ L. LOIS BUHALIS, LETTERER ★ GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST ★ ANN NOCENTI, EDITOR ★ JIM SHOOTER, EDITOR IN CHIEF ★ CHRIS CLAREMONT & BOB McLEOD, CREATORS ★ NEW MUTANTS, STARS ★

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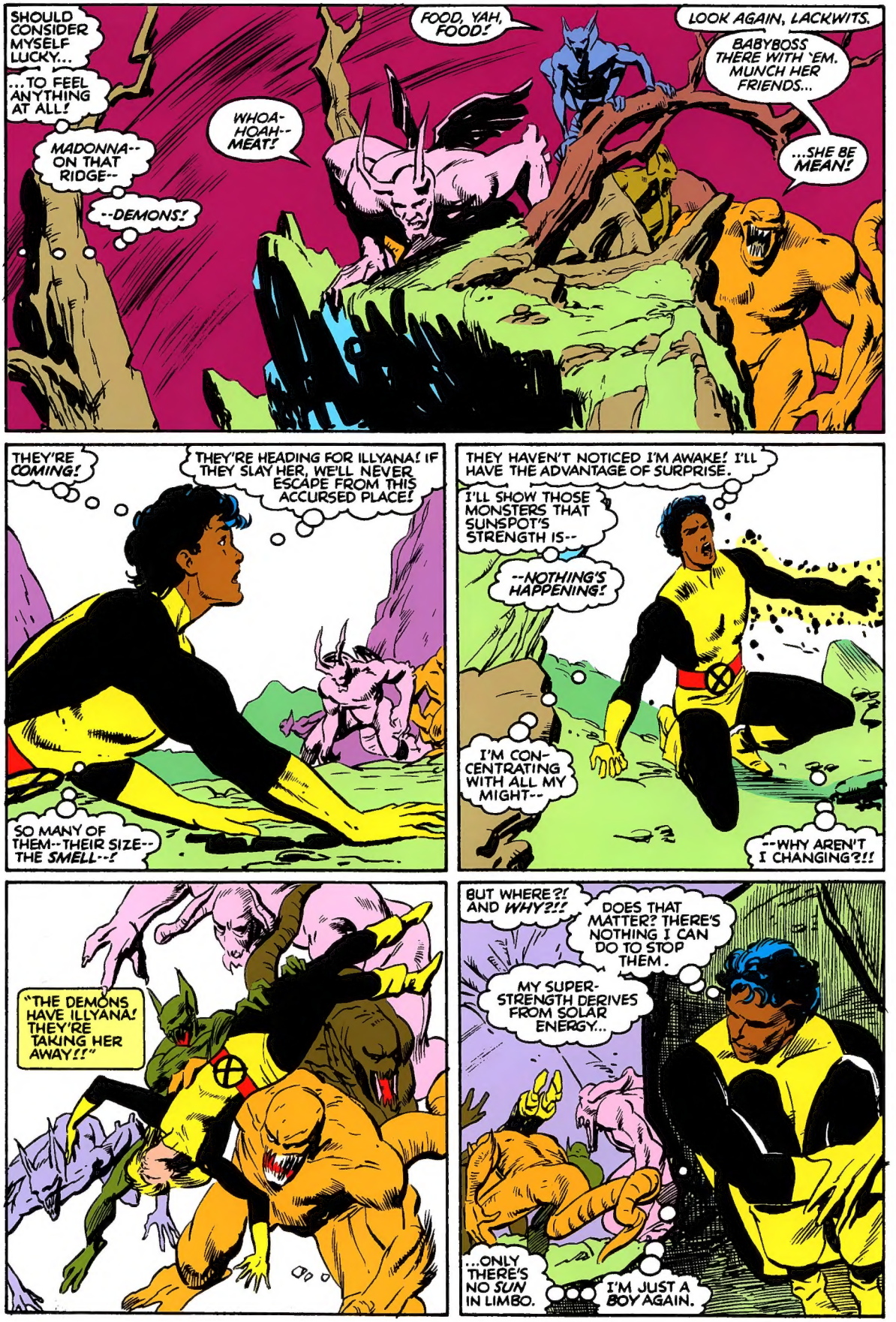
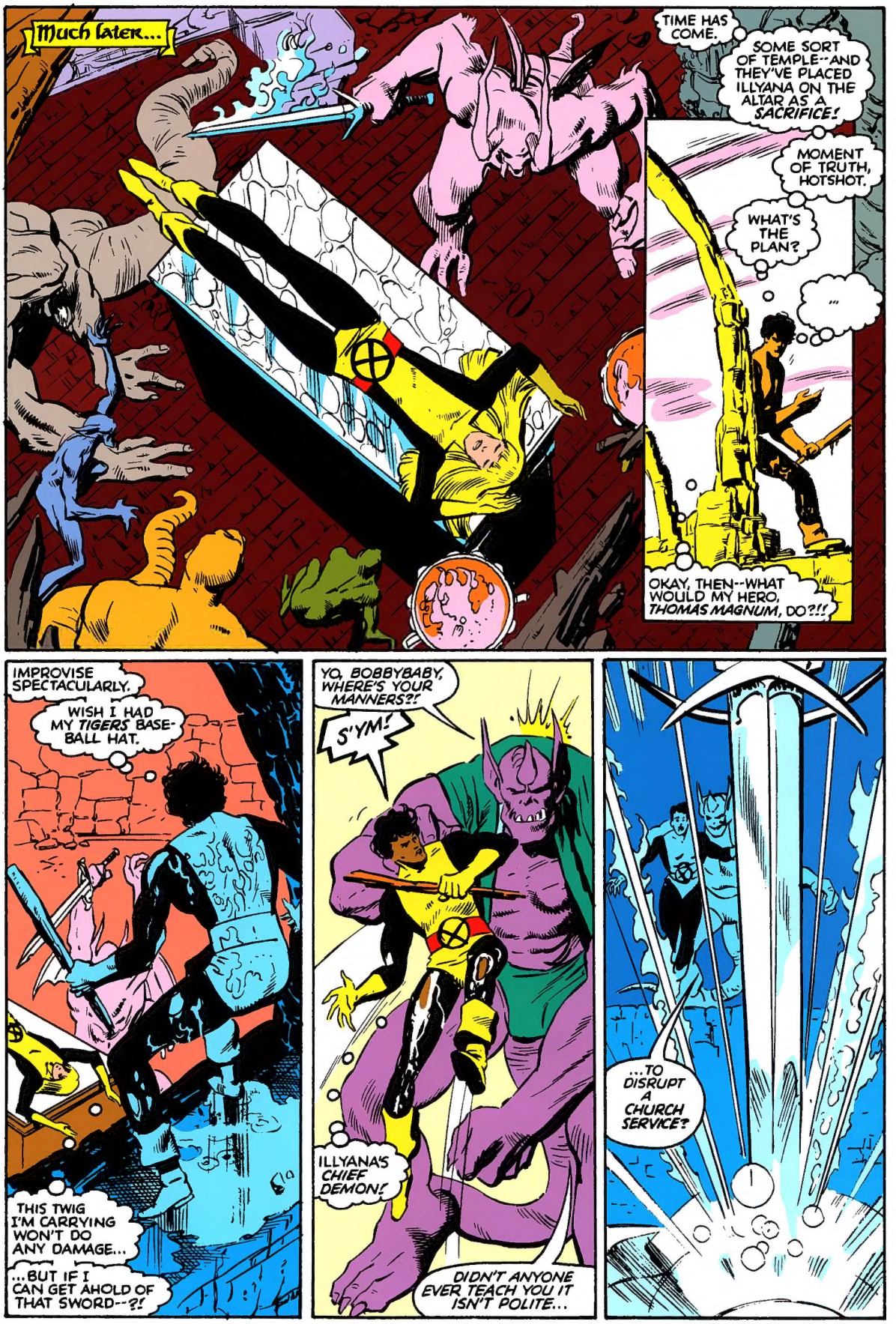
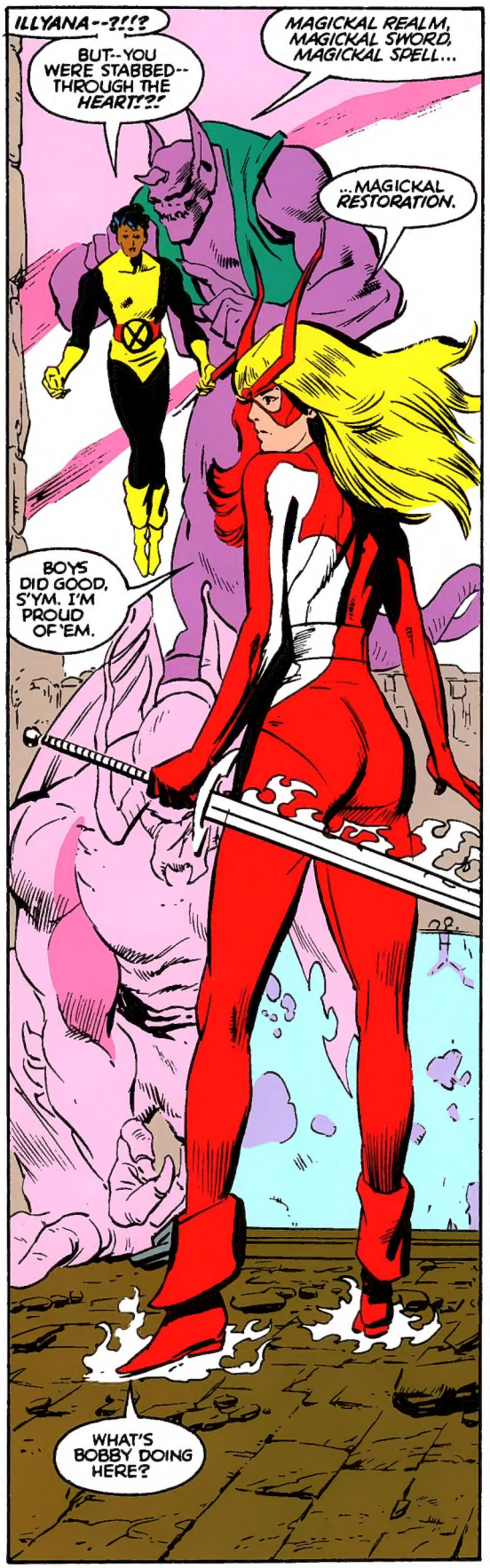
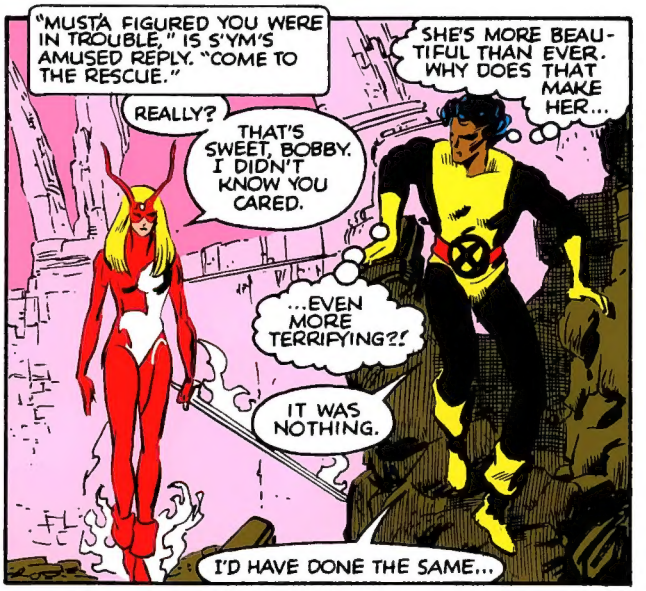
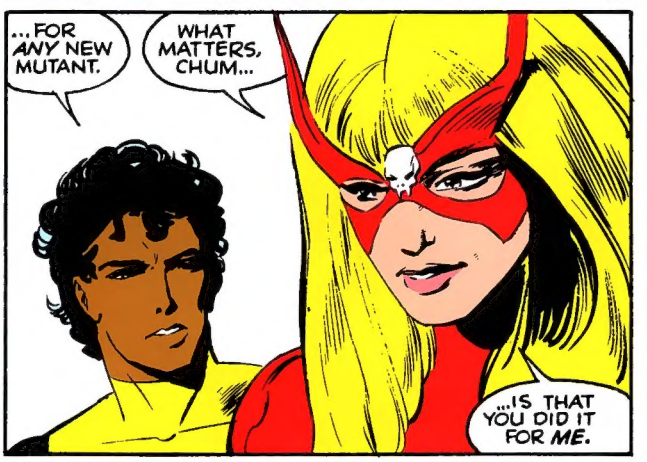

SHOULD CONSIDER MYSELF LUCKY...
...TO FEEL ANYTHING AT ALL!
MADONNA--ON THAT RIDGE--
--DEMONS!
WHOA-HOAH--MEAT!
FOOD, YAH, FOOD!
LOOK AGAIN, LACKWITS.
BABYBOSS THERE WITH 'EM. MUNCH HER FRIENDS...
...SHE BE MEAN!
THEY'RE COMING!
THEY'RE HEADING FOR ILLYANA! IF THEY SLAY HER, WE'LL NEVER ESCAPE FROM THIS ACCURSED PLACE!
SO MANY OF THEM--THEIR SIZE--THE SMELL--!
THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED I'M AWAKE! I'LL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE.
I'LL SHOW THOSE MONSTERS THAT SUNSPOT'S STRENGTH IS--
--NOTHING'S HAPPENING!
I'M CONCENTRATING WITH ALL MY MIGHT--
--WHY AREN'T I CHANGING?!!
"THE DEMONS HAVE ILLYANA! THEY'RE TAKING HER AWAY!!"
BUT WHERE?! AND WHY?!!
DOES THAT MATTER? THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO STOP THEM.
MY SUPER-STRENGTH DERIVES FROM SOLAR ENERGY...
...ONLY THERE'S NO SUN IN LIMBO.
I'M JUST A BOY AGAIN.

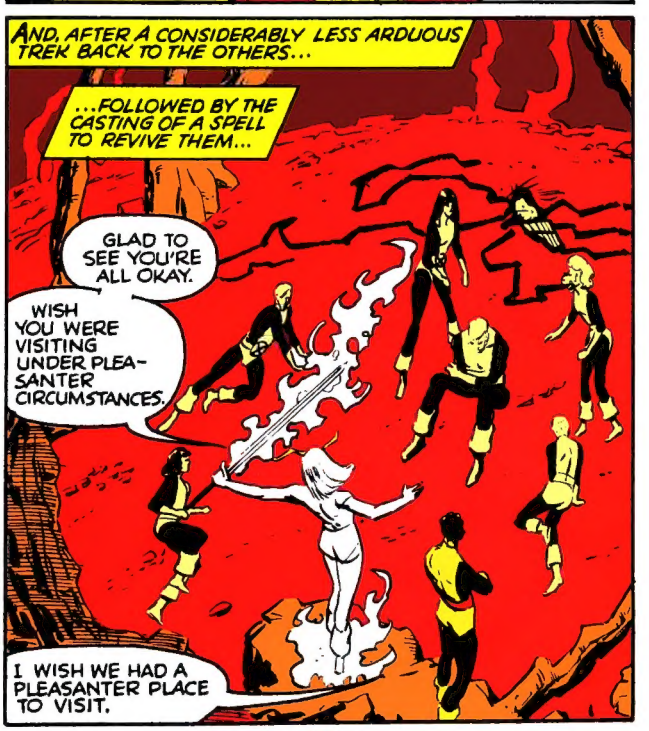
PERHAPS THE *OTHERS* CAN HELP--?!
BUT THOUGH ROBERTO DaCOSTA CALLS AND CAJOLES AND SCREAMS AND SHAKES THEM AS HARD AS HE CAN...
...HIS TEAMMATES DO NOT WAKE.
I'M ALL ALONE.
WHAT DO I DO NOW?!
MAGIK'S A DEMON SORCERESS. SHE'S PROBABLY BETTER OFF WITH HER OWN KIND.
BUT SUPPOSE THEY MEAN HER HARM?!
SHE'S *EVIL*. SERVES HER RIGHT.
SHE'S ALSO A NEW MUTANT.
DOESN'T THAT COUNT FOR ANYTHING?!
HOW OFTEN HAS SHE RISKED HER LIFE FOR US?! FOR ME?!!
WHY COULDN'T YOU BE *NICE*, ILLYANA?!
IT WOULD MAKE THIS DECISION *SO* MUCH EASIER.
SUPPOSE I CATCH THE DEMONS, WHAT THEN?!
WORRY ABOUT IT WHEN THE TIME COMES.
I'M BRILLIANT.
I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING--
AAGH!

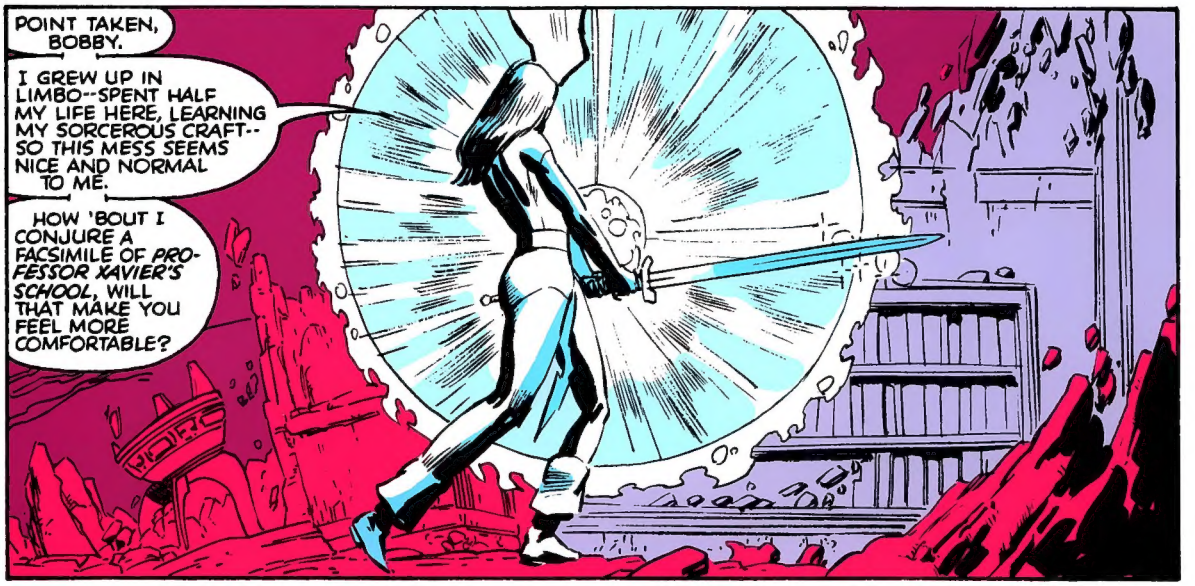

Much later...
TIME HAS COME.
SOME SORT OF TEMPLE--AND THEY'VE PLACED ILLYANA ON THE ALTAR AS A SACRIFICE!
MOMENT OF TRUTH, HOTSHOT.
WHAT'S THE PLAN?
...
OKAY, THEN--WHAT WOULD MY HERO, THOMAS MAGNUM, DO?!!
IMPROVISE SPECTACULARLY.
WISH I HAD MY TIGERS BASE-BALL HAT.
THIS TWIG I'M CARRYING WON'T DO ANY DAMAGE...
...BUT IF I CAN GET AHOLD OF THAT SWORD--?!
YO, BOBBYBABY, WHERE'S YOUR MANNERS?!
S'YM!
ILLYANA'S CHIEF DEMON!
DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TEACH YOU IT ISN'T POLITE...
...TO DISRUPT A CHURCH SERVICE?

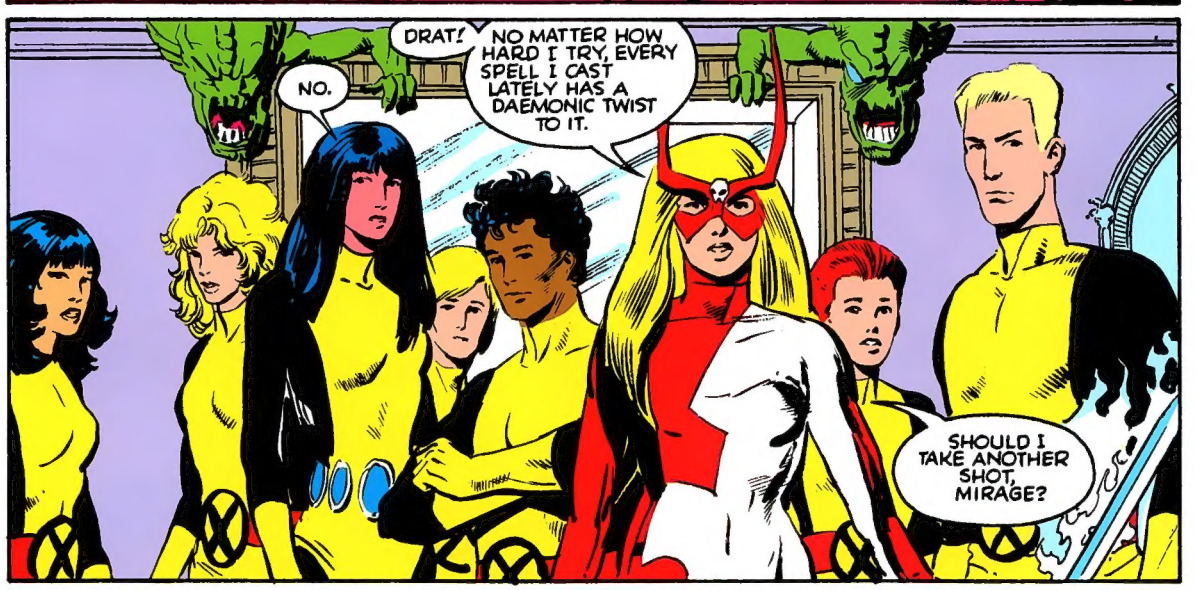

ILLYANA--?!!?
BUT--YOU WERE STABBED--THROUGH THE HEART!?!
MAGICKAL REALM, MAGICKAL SWORD, MAGICKAL SPELL...
...MAGICKAL RESTORATION.
BOYS DID GOOD, S'YM. I'M PROUD OF 'EM.
WHAT'S BOBBY DOING HERE?


"MUSTA FIGURED YOU WERE IN TROUBLE," IS S'YM'S AMUSED REPLY. "COME TO THE RESCUE."
REALLY?
THAT'S SWEET, BOBBY. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED.
SHE'S MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER. WHY DOES THAT MAKE HER...
...EVEN MORE TERRIFYING?!
IT WAS NOTHING.
I'D HAVE DONE THE SAME...

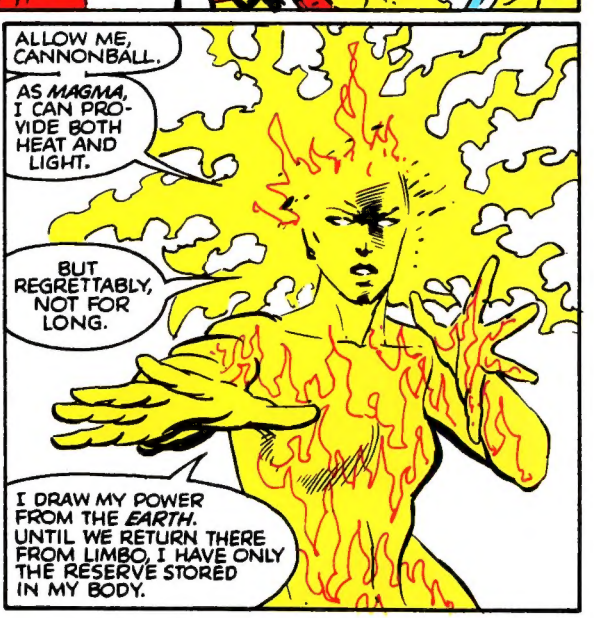

...FOR ANY NEW MUTANT.
WHAT MATTERS, CHUM...
...IS THAT YOU DID IT FOR ME.

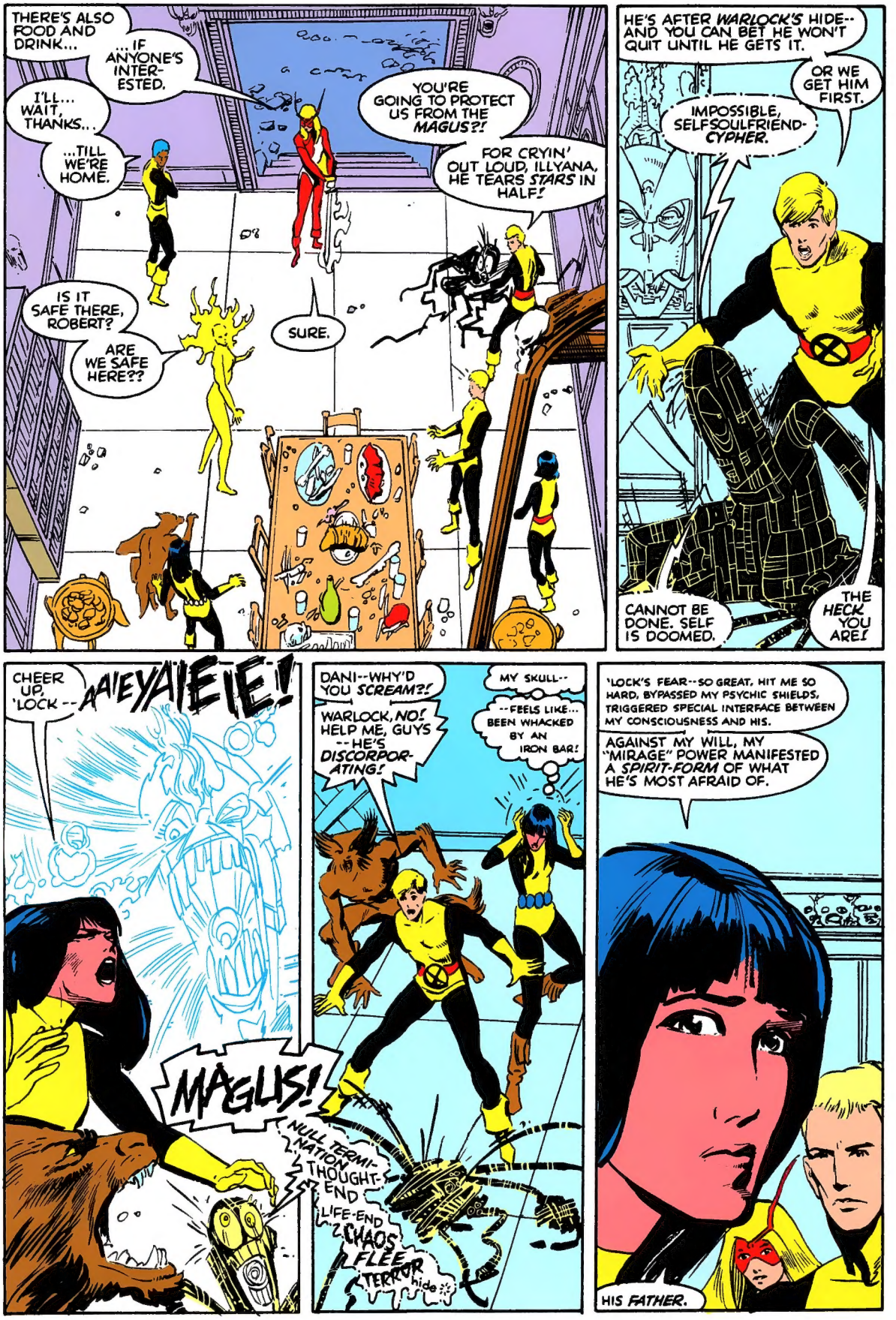

AND, AFTER A CONSIDERABLY LESS ARDUOUS TREK BACK TO THE OTHERS...
...FOLLOWED BY THE CASTING OF A SPELL TO REVIVE THEM...
GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE ALL OKAY.
WISH YOU WERE VISITING UNDER PLEASANTER CIRCUMSTANCES.
I WISH WE HAD A PLEASANTER PLACE TO VISIT.


POINT TAKEN, BOBBY.
I GREW UP IN LIMBO--SPENT HALF MY LIFE HERE, LEARNING MY SORCEROUS CRAFT--SO THIS MESS SEEMS NICE AND NORMAL TO ME.
HOW 'BOUT I CONJURE A FACSIMILE OF *PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL*, WILL THAT MAKE YOU FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE?

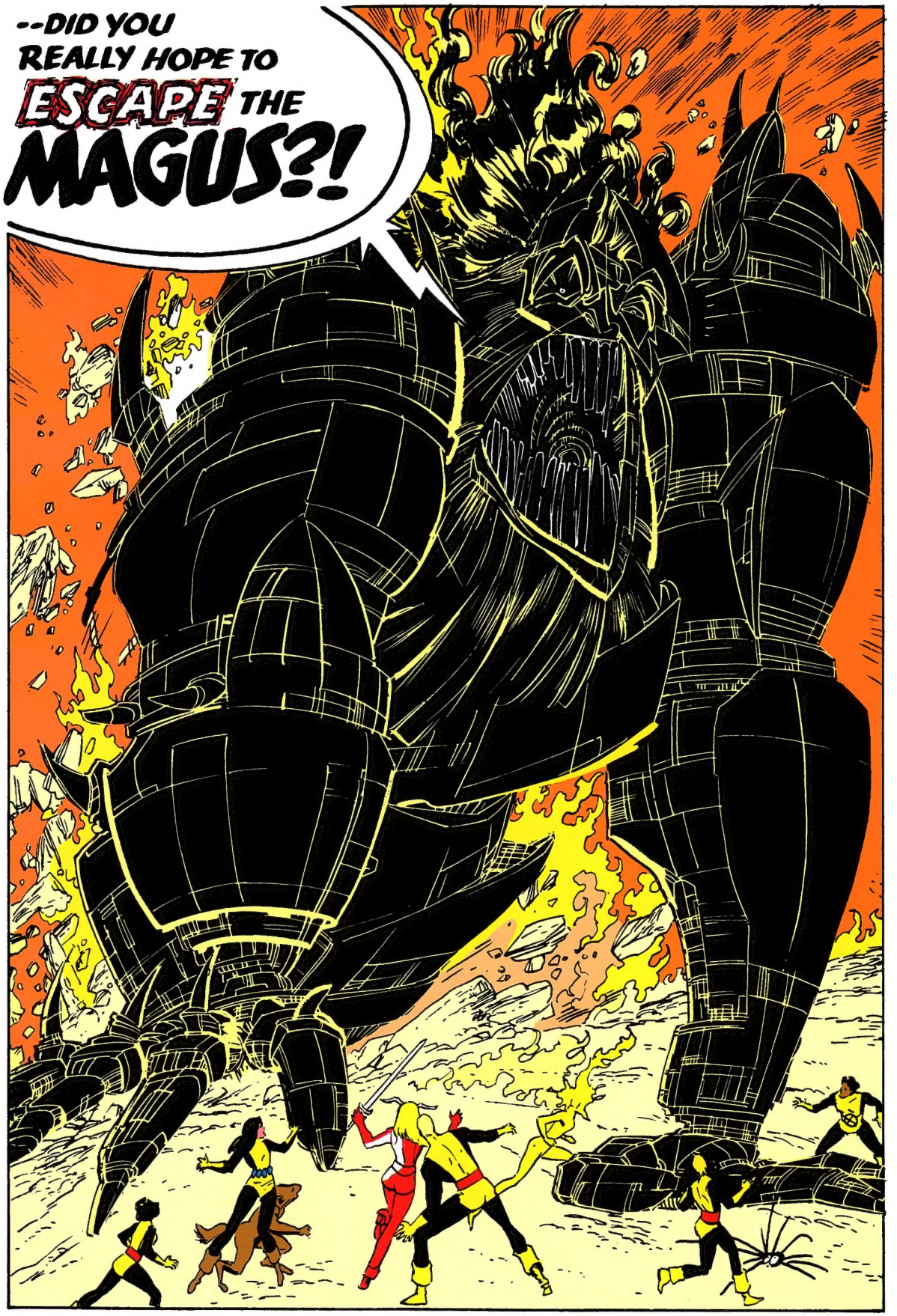

DRAT!
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, EVERY SPELL I CAST LATELY HAS A DAEMONIC TWIST TO IT.
NO.
SHOULD I TAKE ANOTHER SHOT, MIRAGE?

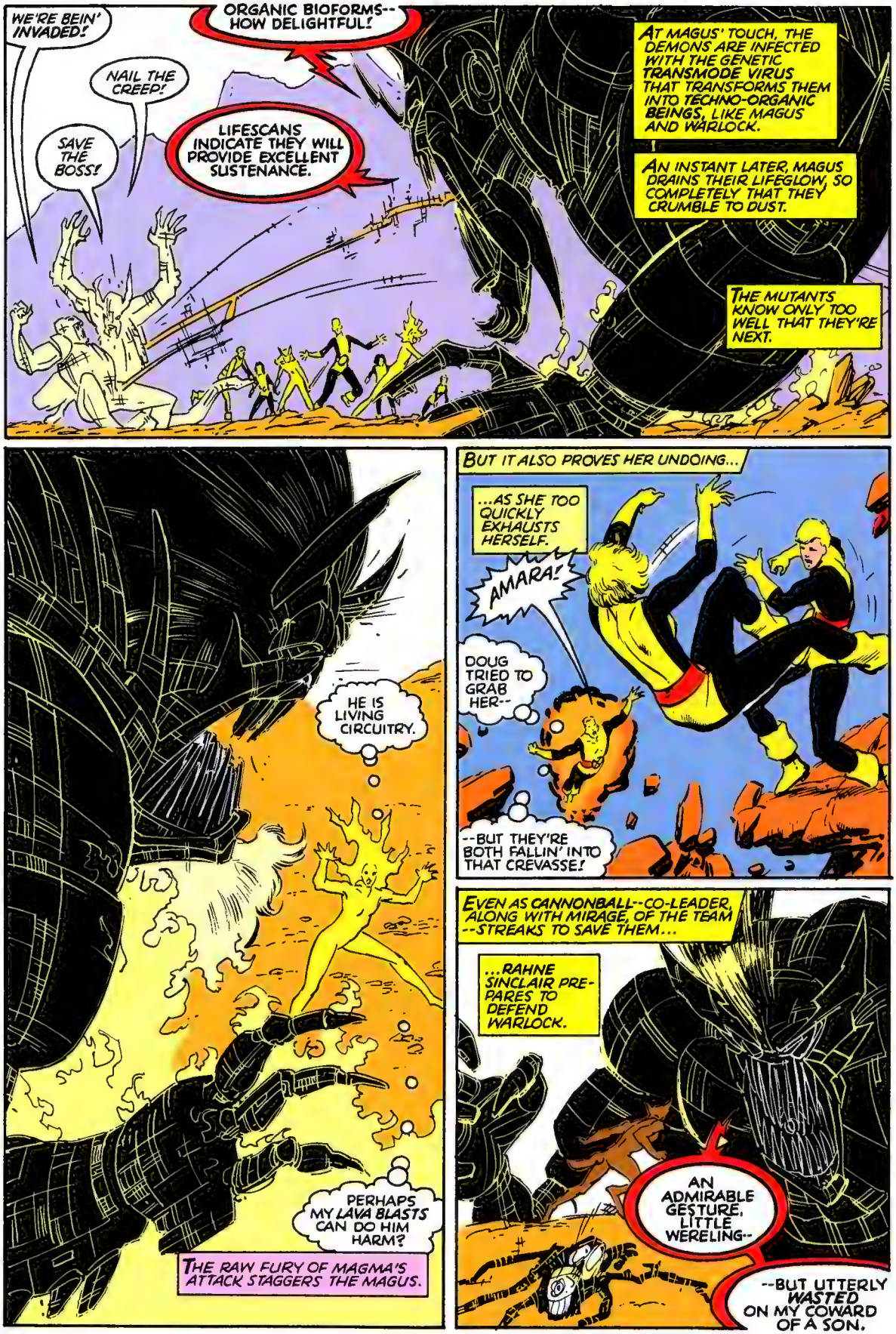
LET THIS RIDE, ILLYANA.
WOLFSBANE'S SPOOKED ENOUGH AS IT IS.
'FRAID WE ALL ARE.
PLACE'S PRETTY CHILL, ILLYANA, ANY CHANCE OF A FIRE?

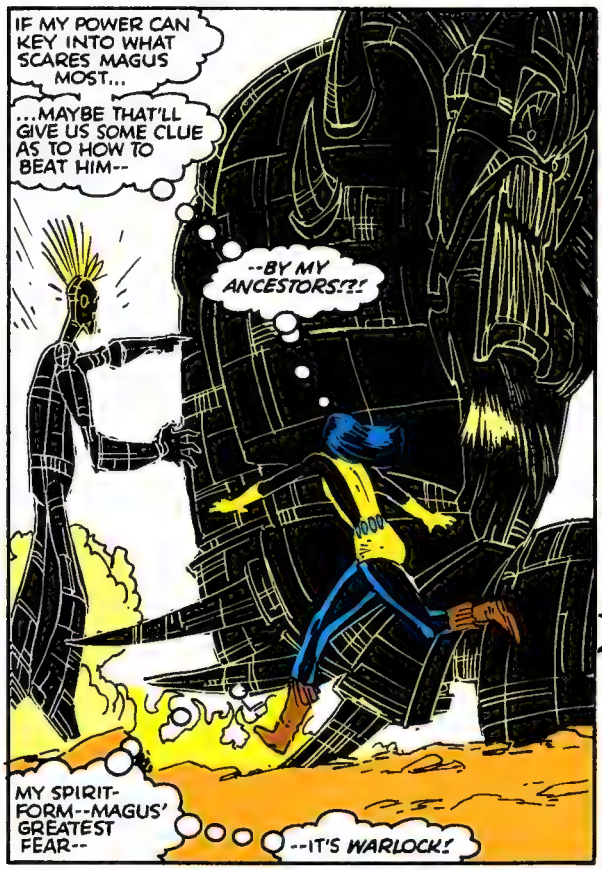

ALLOW ME, CANNONBALL.
AS *MAGMA*, I CAN PROVIDE BOTH HEAT AND LIGHT.
BUT REGRETTABLY, NOT FOR LONG.
I DRAW MY POWER FROM THE *EARTH*. UNTIL WE RETURN THERE FROM LIMBO, I HAVE ONLY THE RESERVE STORED IN MY BODY.


THERE'S ALSO FOOD AND DRINK...
...IF ANYONE'S INTERESTED.
I'LL... WAIT, THANKS...
...TILL WE'RE HOME.
YOU'RE GOING TO PROTECT US FROM THE MAGUS?!
FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD, ILLYANA, HE TEARS STARS IN HALF!
IS IT SAFE THERE, ROBERT?
ARE WE SAFE HERE??
SURE.
HE'S AFTER WARLOCK'S HIDE-- AND YOU CAN BET HE WON'T QUIT UNTIL HE GETS IT.
OR WE GET HIM FIRST.
IMPOSSIBLE, SELF-SOULFRIEND-CYPHER.
CANNOT BE DONE. SELF IS DOOMED.
THE HECK YOU ARE!
CHEER UP, 'LOCK --
AAIEYAIEIE!
MAGUS!
DANI--WHY'D YOU SCREAM?!
WARLOCK, NO! HELP ME, GUYS --HE'S DISCORPORATING!
MY SKULL--
--FEELS LIKE... BEEN WHACKED BY AN IRON BAR!
NULL TERMINATION
THOUGHT-END
LIFE-END
CHAOS
FLEE
TERROR
hide
'LOCK'S FEAR--SO GREAT, HIT ME SO HARD, BYPASSED MY PSYCHIC SHIELDS, TRIGGERED SPECIAL INTERFACE BETWEEN MY CONSCIOUSNESS AND HIS.
AGAINST MY WILL, MY "MIRAGE" POWER MANIFESTED A SPIRIT-FORM OF WHAT HE'S MOST AFRAID OF.
HIS FATHER.

Oh, SAM--WHAT SORT OF MAD PLACE DOES WARLOCK COME FROM, WHERE CHILDREN HAVE TO SLAUGHTER THEIR PARENTS TO EARN THEIR RIGHT TO LIFE?!
BEATS ME, DANI.
BEEN SO LONG SINCE I LOST CONTROL OF MY POWERS THAT BADLY.
FORGOTTEN HOW...SCARY IT WAS.
SELFRIEND MAGIK SHOULD TELEPORT SELF TO EARTH. ONCE MAGUS HAS TERMINATED SELF, SELFRIEND TEAMMATES NEW MUTANTS WILL BE SAFE.
NO WAY, JOSE.
LOGICAL COURSE OF ACTION.
PERHAPS SO...
...BUT IT'S NOT RIGHT.
WE'RE A TEAM, PAL! WE STAND AND FALL TOGETHER.
I'M CHEYENNE, 'LOCK. WINNING HOPELESS FIGHTS ARE MY STOCK IN TRADE.
SAME HERE. MY PEOPLE FOUGHT WITH THE CONFEDERACY.
GREAT.
ANYBODY GOT ANY BRIGHT IDEAS ABOUT HOW WE'RE GOING TO DO IT?
Huh--?!!
FOOLISH CHILDREN--


--DID YOU
REALLY HOPE TO
ESCAPE THE
MAGUS?!


WE'RE BEIN' INVADED!
ORGANIC BIOFORMS--HOW DELIGHTFUL!
NAIL THE CREEP!
SAVE THE BOSS!
LIFESCANS INDICATE THEY WILL PROVIDE EXCELLENT SUSTENANCE.
AT MAGUS' TOUCH, THE DEMONS ARE INFECTED WITH THE GENETIC TRANSMODE VIRUS THAT TRANSFORMS THEM INTO TECHNO-ORGANIC BEINGS, LIKE MAGUS AND WARLOCK.
AN INSTANT LATER, MAGUS DRAINS THEIR LIFEGLOW, SO COMPLETELY THAT THEY CRUMBLE TO DUST.
THE MUTANTS KNOW ONLY TOO WELL THAT THEY'RE NEXT.
HE IS LIVING CIRCUITRY.
PERHAPS MY LAVA BLASTS CAN DO HIM HARM?
THE RAW FURY OF MAGMA'S ATTACK STAGGERS THE MAGUS.
BUT IT ALSO PROVES HER UNDOING...
...AS SHE TOO QUICKLY EXHAUSTS HERSELF.
AMARA!
DOUG TRIED TO GRAB HER--
--BUT THEY'RE BOTH FALLIN' INTO THAT CREVASSE!
EVEN AS CANNONBALL--CO-LEADER, ALONG WITH MIRAGE, OF THE TEAM--STREAKS TO SAVE THEM...
...RAHNE SINCLAIR PREPARES TO DEFEND WARLOCK.
AN ADMIRABLE GESTURE, LITTLE WERELING--
--BUT UTTERLY WASTED ON MY COWARD OF A SON.

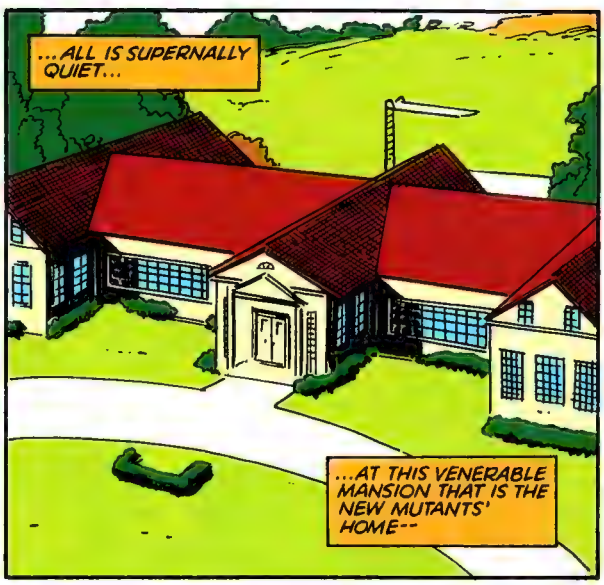

IF MY POWER CAN KEY INTO WHAT SCARES MAGUS MOST...
...MAYBE THAT'LL GIVE US SOME CLUE AS TO HOW TO BEAT HIM--
--BY MY ANCESTORS?!?!
MY SPIRIT-FORM--MAGUS' GREATEST FEAR--
--IT'S WARLOCK!

TERRIFIC!
OUR SALVATION IS IN THE HANDS...
...OF AN INCOHERENT PUDDLE OF CIRCUITRY--
--WHOOPS?!!
BAM!
WAY TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT!

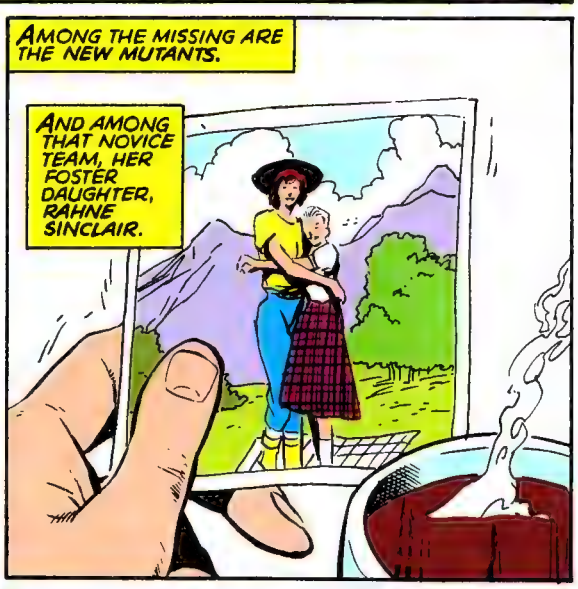
KARMA--CAN YOU POSSESS HIM?!
YOU MUST BE JOKING!
I WILL TRY, MAGIK.
BLESSED LORD OF ALL, GIVE ME STRENGTH!
I HAVE DONE IT!
BUT--HE IS TOO POWERFUL--
--BREAKING FREE!

NO PROBLEM.
ALL I NEEDED WAS A SECOND'S GRACE.
AND, IN A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT, MAGIK USES HER MUTANT POWER TO TELEPORT THE ENTIRE TEAM OUT OF LIMBO. THEIR DESTINATION? ANYWHERE IN SPACE, ANYWHERE IN TIME.

MEANWHILE...
...ON EARTH...
PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS
CHARTERED 1963


...ALL IS SUPERNALLY QUIET...
...AT THIS VENERABLE MANSION THAT IS THE NEW MUTANTS' HOME--

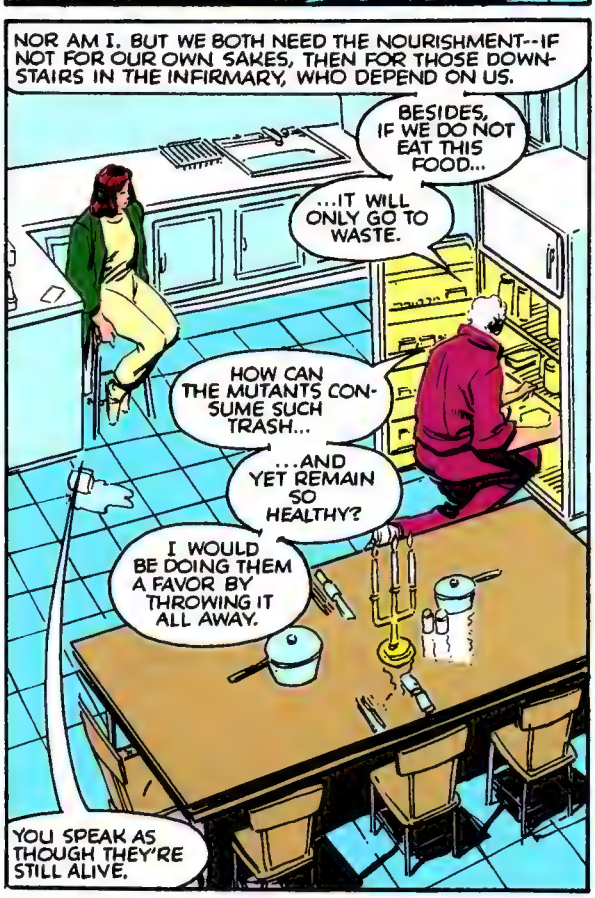
--BUT HARDLY CALM.
FOR DAYS, MOIRA MacTAGGART HAS SUBSISTED ON GALLONS OF BLACK COFFEE, HASTILY GRABBED BITES OF TASTELESS SANDWICHES, AND FITFUL CATNAPS, SNATCHED AMIDST THE HARDEST WORK SHE'S EVER DONE IN HER LIFE.
SHE'S A DOCTOR. AND SINCE ARRIVING AT XAVIER'S, SHE'S BEEN FIGHTING WITH ALL HER SKILL AND STRENGTH TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE SURVIVORS OF A FRIGHTFUL MASSACRE INVOLVING BOTH THE X-MEN AND A RENEGADE BAND OF MUTANTS, CALLED THE MORLOCKS.
DESPITE HER BEST EFFORTS, HOWEVER, TOO MANY HAVE DIED. AND SHE KNOWS THAT THIS BUTCHER'S BILL IS FAR FROM COMPLETE.
THE STRAIN IS TAKING ITS TOLL. SHE'S NEVER FELT SO WEARY...
...OR SO OLD.

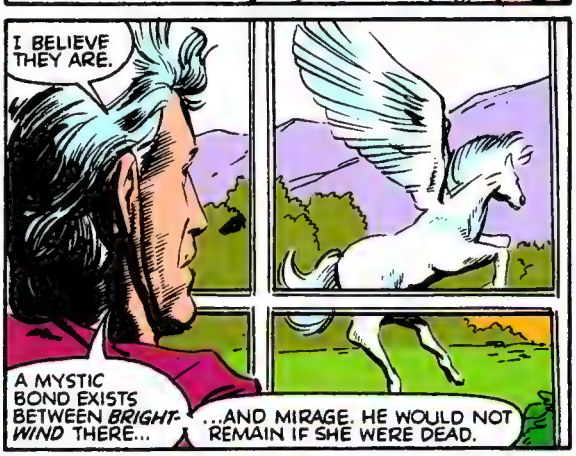

AMONG THE MISSING ARE THE NEW MUTANTS.
AND AMONG THAT NOVICE TEAM, HER FOSTER DAUGHTER, RAHNE SINCLAIR.

WITH ALL HER HEART, SHE WANTS TO HOPE FOR THE BEST.
BUT HER FEAR--FOR RAHNE, AND THE OTHERS--WILL NOT BE DENIED.

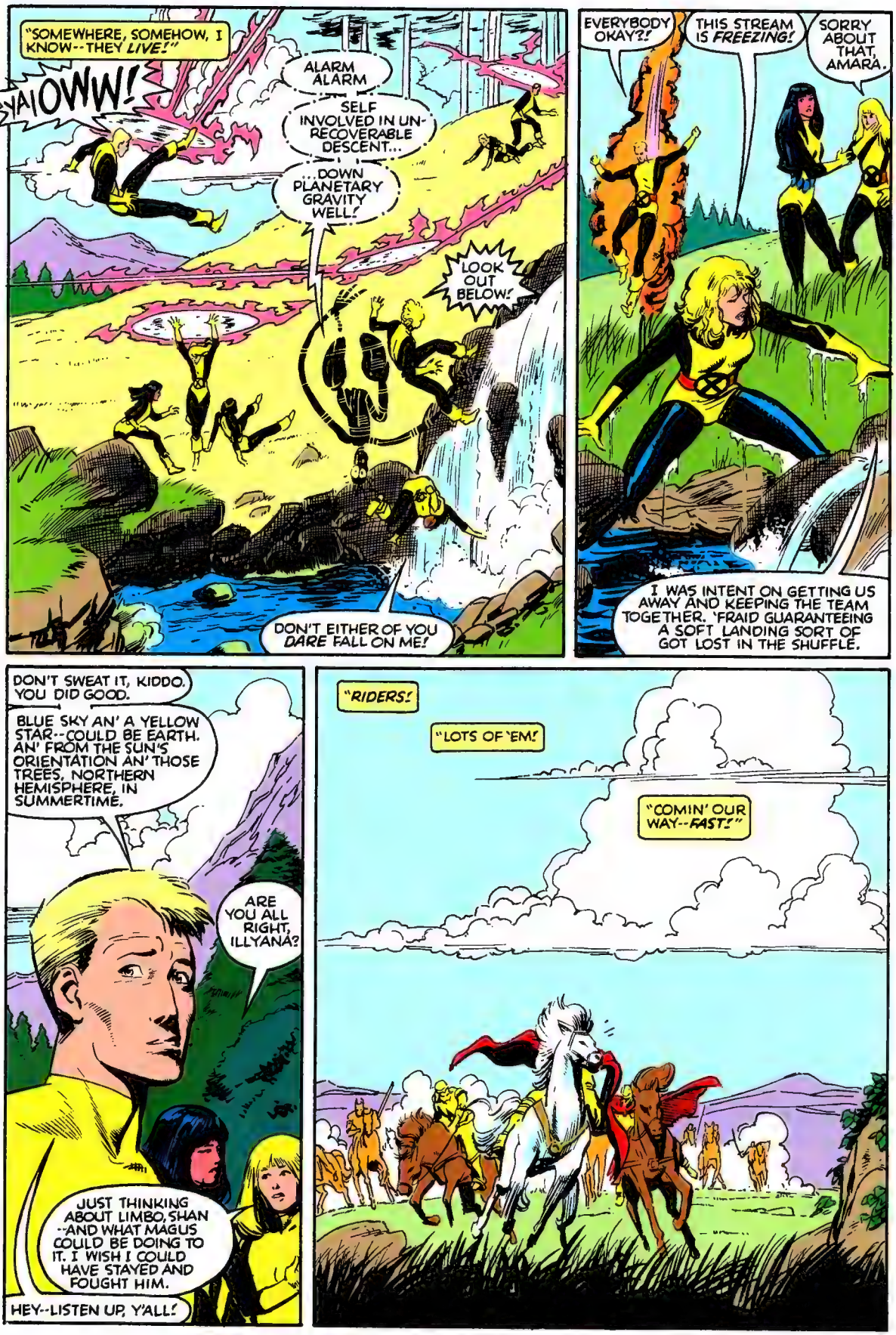
THEN SUDDENLY...
WHAT THE DEVIL--?!
SOME WOULD CONSIDER THAT A MORE THAN APT DESCRIPTION, Dr. MacTAGGART, OF...

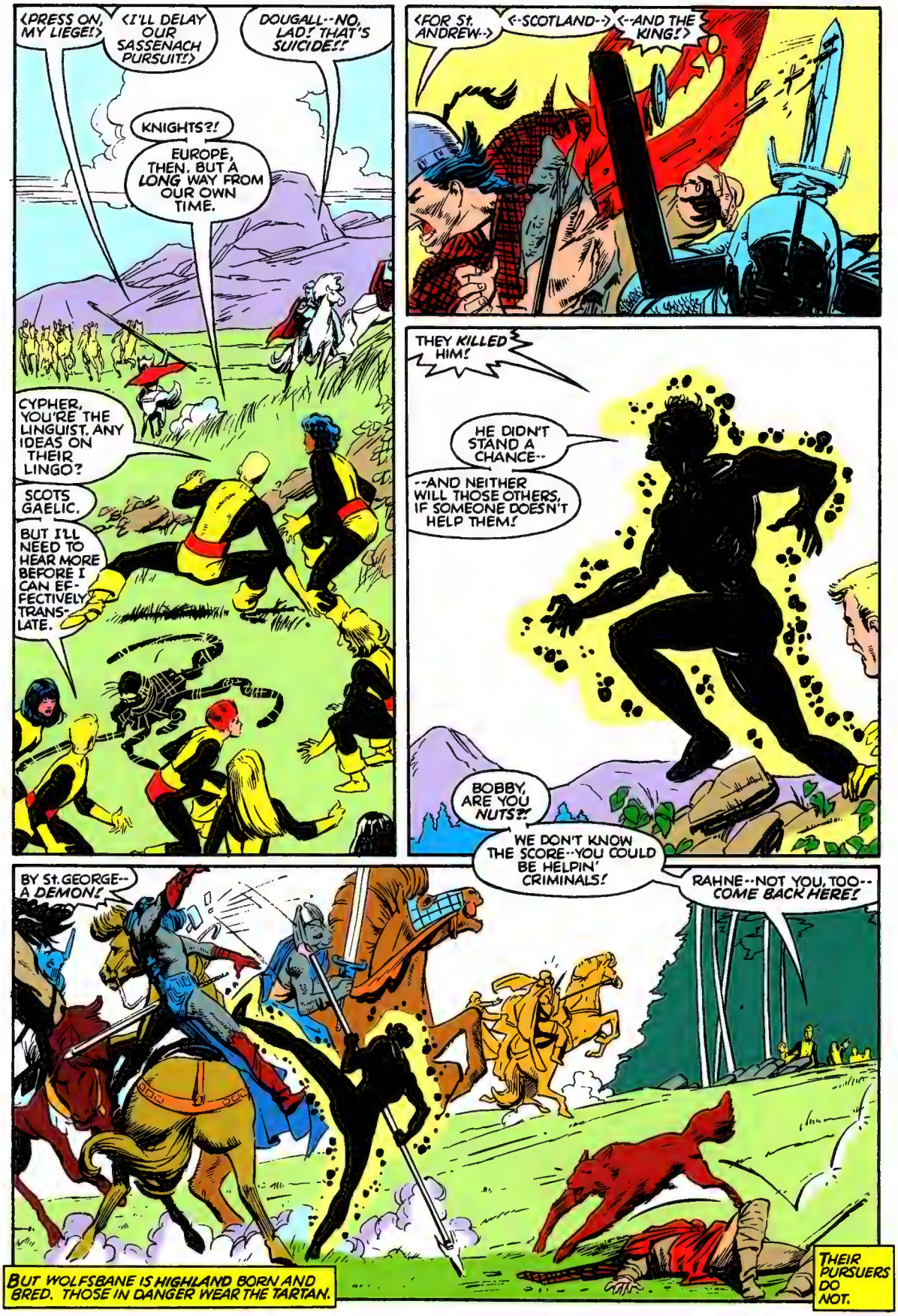
...MAGNETO.
MASTER OF MAGNETISM.
MUTANT TERRORIST. THE DEVIL INCARNATE.
WHO KNOWS, THEY MAY BE RIGHT.
DO NOT BE ALARMED.
A PROPER MEAL DESERVES A PROPER SETTING.
I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, MAGNETO, BUT I'M NOT HUNGRY.


NOR AM I. BUT WE BOTH NEED THE NOURISHMENT--IF NOT FOR OUR OWN SAKES, THEN FOR THOSE DOWNSTAIRS IN THE INFIRMARY, WHO DEPEND ON US.
BESIDES, IF WE DO NOT EAT THIS FOOD...
...IT WILL ONLY GO TO WASTE.
HOW CAN THE MUTANTS CONSUME SUCH TRASH...
...AND YET REMAIN SO HEALTHY?
I WOULD BE DOING THEM A FAVOR BY THROWING IT ALL AWAY.
YOU SPEAK AS THOUGH THEY'RE STILL ALIVE.

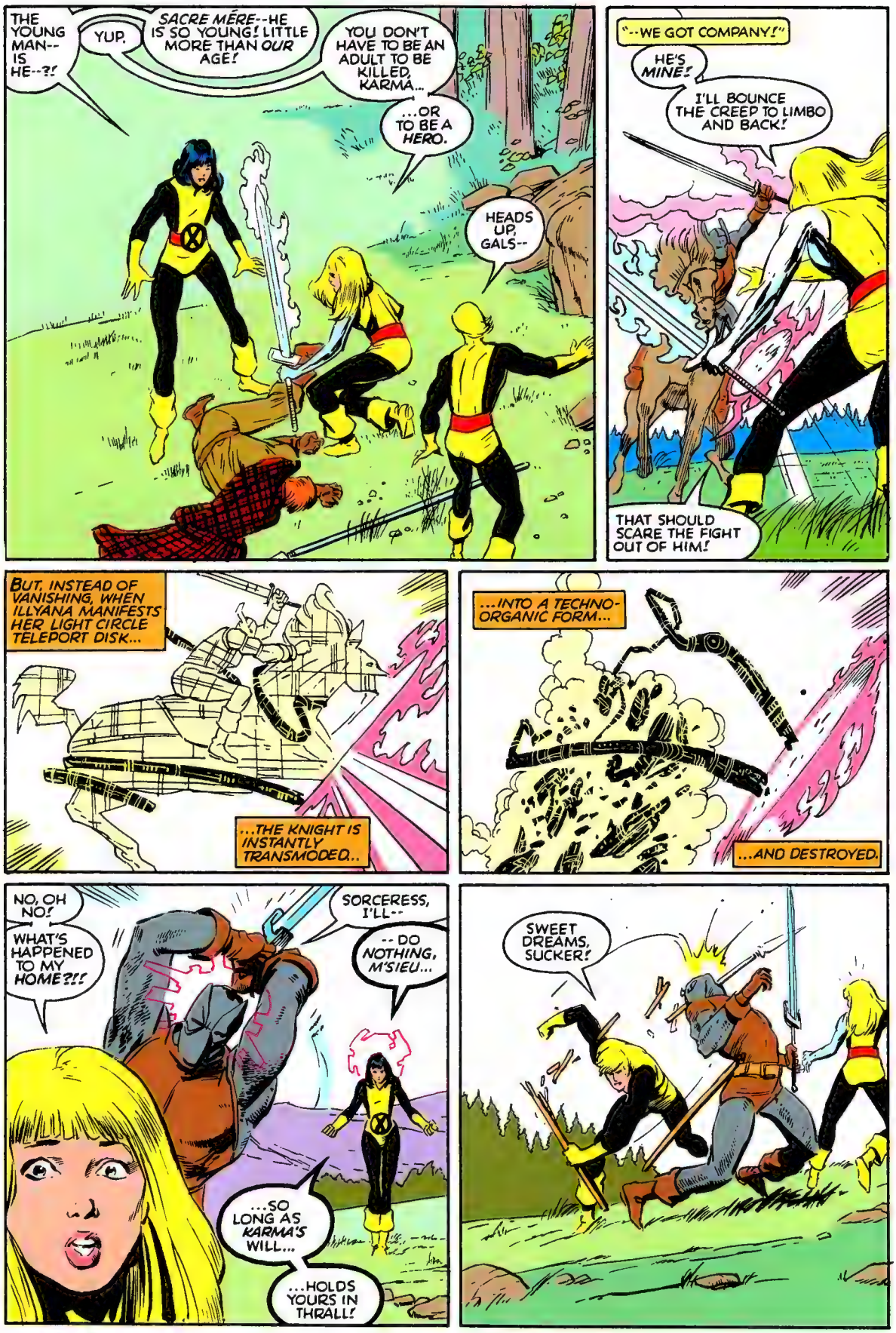

I BELIEVE THEY ARE.
A MYSTIC BOND EXISTS BETWEEN BRIGHTWIND THERE...
...AND MIRAGE. HE WOULD NOT REMAIN IF SHE WERE DEAD.

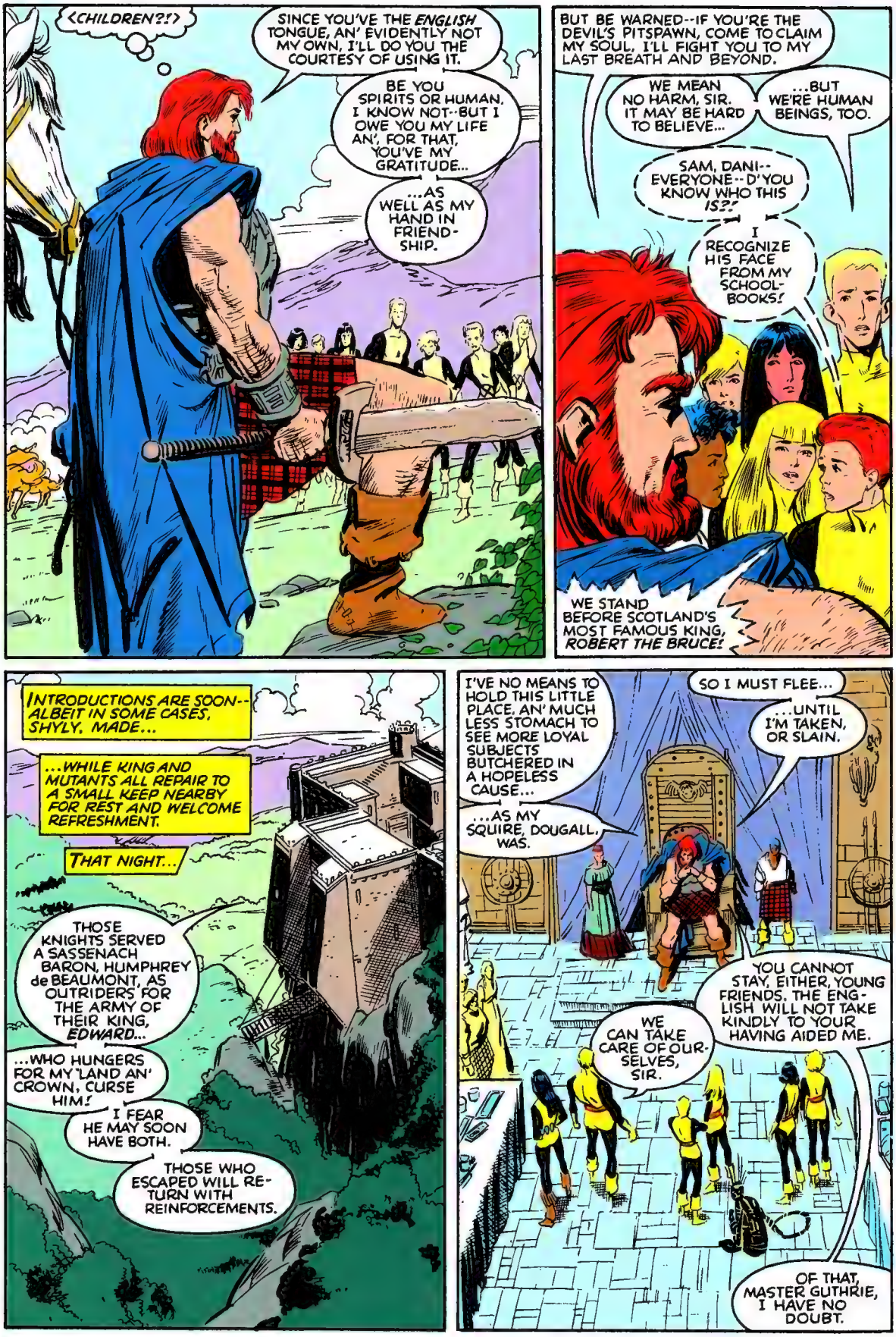
I HAVE LIVED MY WHOLE LIFE WITH DESPAIR, MOIRA, BELIEVING THE WORST OF HUMANITY.
BUT SINCE BECOMING HEADMASTER OF XAVIER'S --MORE ESPECIALLY, BY KNOWING THE NEW MUTANTS--I HAVE LEARNED...
...THE VIRTUE AND POWER OF HOPE.
THIS IS A LESSON I WILL NOT EASILY CAST ASIDE.

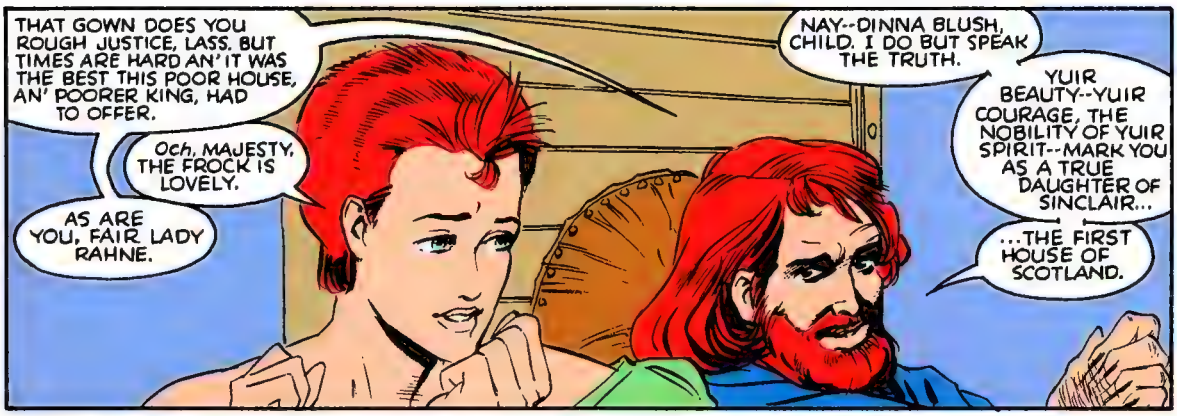

"SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW, I KNOW--THEY LIVE!"
YAIOWW!
ALARM ALARM
SELF INVOLVED IN UN-RECOVERABLE DESCENT...
...DOWN PLANETARY GRAVITY WELL!
LOOK OUT BELOW!
DON'T EITHER OF YOU DARE FALL ON ME!
EVERYBODY OKAY?!
THIS STREAM IS FREEZING!
SORRY ABOUT THAT, AMARA.
I WAS INTENT ON GETTING US AWAY AND KEEPING THE TEAM TOGETHER. 'FRAID GUARANTEEING A SOFT LANDING SORT OF GOT LOST IN THE SHUFFLE.
DON'T SWEAT IT, KIDDO. YOU DID GOOD.
BLUE SKY AN' A YELLOW STAR--COULD BE EARTH. AN' FROM THE SUN'S ORIENTATION AN' THOSE TREES, NORTHERN HEMISPHERE, IN SUMMERTIME.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, ILLYANA?
JUST THINKING ABOUT LIMBO, SHAN --AND WHAT MAGUS COULD BE DOING TO IT. I WISH I COULD HAVE STAYED AND FOUGHT HIM.
HEY--LISTEN UP, Y'ALL!
"RIDERS!
"LOTS OF 'EM!
"COMIN' OUR WAY--FAST!"

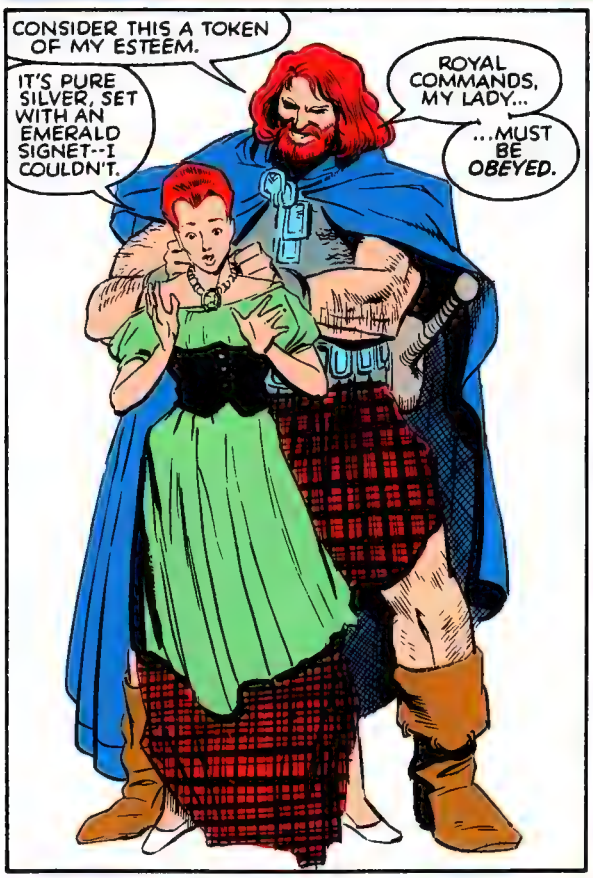

<PRESS ON, MY LIEGE!>
<I'LL DELAY OUR SASSENACH PURSUIT!>
DOUGALL--NO, LAD! THAT'S SUICIDE!!
KNIGHTS?!
EUROPE, THEN. BUT A LONG WAY FROM OUR OWN TIME.
CYPHER, YOU'RE THE LINGUIST. ANY IDEAS ON THEIR LINGO?
SCOTS GAELIC.
BUT I'LL NEED TO HEAR MORE BEFORE I CAN EFFECTIVELY TRANSLATE.
<FOR St. ANDREW-> <-SCOTLAND-> <--AND THE KING!>
THEY KILLED HIM!
HE DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE--
--AND NEITHER WILL THOSE OTHERS, IF SOMEONE DOESN'T HELP THEM!
BOBBY, ARE YOU NUTS?!
WE DON'T KNOW THE SCORE--YOU COULD BE HELPIN' CRIMINALS!
RAHNE--NOT YOU, TOO--COME BACK HERE!
BY St. GEORGE--A DEMON!
BUT WOLFSBANE IS HIGHLAND BORN AND BRED. THOSE IN DANGER WEAR THE TARTAN.
THEIR PURSUERS DO NOT.

SHE'LL PERMIT NO MORE OF HER COUNTRYMEN TO BE SLAIN.
YAIEEE!
MERCIFUL SAINTS--I'M REVERTING TO NORMAL!
I HAVEN'T YET ABSORBED ENOUGH SOLAR ENERGY TO REMAIN SUNSPOT FOR MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS!
A BOY--MOOR BY THE COLOR OF HIM!
NOW, YOU HEATHEN DEVIL--PREPARE TO DIE!
YOU WON'T KILL HIM, CHUM!
NOT WHILE AH CAN HELP IT!
TAKE THE HINT, GENTS, AN' BACK OFF--WHILE Y'ALL ARE STILL ABLE.
MAYBE I CAN SCARE THEM WITH MY SPIRIT-FORMS--?!
THE SCOTS ARMY?! HERE?!? BUT HOW--?!!
SOME MINOR VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS SHOULD SHAKE THESE CURS UP A BIT.
A PITY ALL OUR BATTLES ARE NOT SO EASY.
SILLY MAN, STEEL IS OF LITTLE USE AGAINST ONE WHOSE BODY BURNS AS HOT AS THE MOLTEN HEART OF THE WORLD!
SORCERY!


THE YOUNG MAN--IS HE--?!
YUP.
SACRE MÈRE--HE IS SO YOUNG! LITTLE MORE THAN OUR AGE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN ADULT TO BE KILLED, KARMA...
...OR TO BE A HERO.
HEADS UP, GALS--
"--WE GOT COMPANY!"
HE'S MINE!
I'LL BOUNCE THE CREEP TO LIMBO AND BACK!
THAT SHOULD SCARE THE FIGHT OUT OF HIM!
BUT, INSTEAD OF VANISHING, WHEN ILLYANA MANIFESTS HER LIGHT CIRCLE TELEPORT DISK...
...THE KNIGHT IS INSTANTLY TRANSMODED..
...INTO A TECHNO-ORGANIC FORM...
...AND DESTROYED.
NO, OH NO!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY HOME?!!
SORCERESS, I'LL--
--DO NOTHING, M'SIEU...
...SO LONG AS KARMA'S WILL...
...HOLDS YOURS IN THRALL!
SWEET DREAMS, SUCKER!


(CHILDREN?!)
SINCE YOU'VE THE ENGLISH TONGUE, AN' EVIDENTLY NOT MY OWN, I'LL DO YOU THE COURTESY OF USING IT.
BE YOU SPIRITS OR HUMAN, I KNOW NOT--BUT I OWE YOU MY LIFE AN', FOR THAT, YOU'VE MY GRATITUDE...
...AS WELL AS MY HAND IN FRIEND-SHIP.
BUT BE WARNED--IF YOU'RE THE DEVIL'S PITSPAWN, COME TO CLAIM MY SOUL, I'LL FIGHT YOU TO MY LAST BREATH AND BEYOND.
WE MEAN NO HARM, SIR. IT MAY BE HARD TO BELIEVE...
...BUT WE'RE HUMAN BEINGS, TOO.
SAM, DANI--EVERYONE--D'YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?!
I RECOGNIZE HIS FACE FROM MY SCHOOL-BOOKS!
WE STAND BEFORE SCOTLAND'S MOST FAMOUS KING, ROBERT THE BRUCE!
INTRODUCTIONS ARE SOON--ALBEIT IN SOME CASES, SHYLY, MADE...
...WHILE KING AND MUTANTS ALL REPAIR TO A SMALL KEEP NEARBY FOR REST AND WELCOME REFRESHMENT.
THAT NIGHT...
THOSE KNIGHTS SERVED A SASSENACH BARON, HUMPHREY de BEAUMONT, AS OUTRIDERS FOR THE ARMY OF THEIR KING, EDWARD...
...WHO HUNGERS FOR MY 'LAND AN' CROWN, CURSE HIM!
I FEAR HE MAY SOON HAVE BOTH.
THOSE WHO ESCAPED WILL RE-TURN WITH REINFORCEMENTS.
I'VE NO MEANS TO HOLD THIS LITTLE PLACE, AN' MUCH LESS STOMACH TO SEE MORE LOYAL SUBJECTS BUTCHERED IN A HOPELESS CAUSE...
...AS MY SQUIRE, DOUGALL, WAS.
SO I MUST FLEE...
...UNTIL I'M TAKEN, OR SLAIN.
YOU CANNOT STAY, EITHER, YOUNG FRIENDS. THE ENG-LISH WILL NOT TAKE KINDLY TO YOUR HAVING AIDED ME.
WE CAN TAKE CARE OF OUR-SELVES, SIR.
OF THAT, MASTER GUTHRIE, I HAVE NO DOUBT.


THAT GOWN DOES YOU ROUGH JUSTICE, LASS. BUT TIMES ARE HARD AN' IT WAS THE BEST THIS POOR HOUSE, AN' POORER KING, HAD TO OFFER.
Och, MAJESTY, THE FROCK IS LOVELY.
AS ARE YOU, FAIR LADY RAHNE.
NAY--DINNA BLUSH, CHILD. I DO BUT SPEAK THE TRUTH.
YUIR BEAUTY--YUIR COURAGE, THE NOBILITY OF YUIR SPIRIT--MARK YOU AS A TRUE DAUGHTER OF SINCLAIR...
...THE FIRST HOUSE OF SCOTLAND.


CONSIDER THIS A TOKEN OF MY ESTEEM.
IT'S PURE SILVER, SET WITH AN EMERALD SIGNET--I COULDN'T.
ROYAL COMMANDS, MY LADY...
...MUST BE OBEYED.

LOOK AT HIM--A LONE MAN, STRUGGLING ON AGAINST HOPELESS ODDS. SOUND FAMILIAR?
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, BOBBY?
ILLYANA'S AFRAID THAT LIMBO MAY BE TOTALLY UNDER MAGUS'S CONTROL. IF IT IS, WE'VE NO WAY OF RETURNING TO OUR OWN TIME. WE'RE STUCK HERE.
I SAY WE MAKE THE BEST OF THAT. WE'VE A NOBLE CAUSE TO FIGHT FOR, GREAT DEEDS TO BE DONE. THINK, FRIENDS, OF WHAT WE MIGHT ACCOMPLISH!

AIN'T THAT SIMPLE--AN' YOU KNOW IT.
WHAT ABOUT THE COST TO OUR WORLD, IN THE FUTURE, IF WE CHANGE HISTORY?
DOIN' GOOD HERE AN' NOW MIGHT CAUSE UNTOLD HARM IN TIMES TO COME.
AND WHAT ABOUT MAGUS?
HE FOUND US IN LIMBO, CHANCES ARE HE'LL FOLLOW US HERE. IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

SO WHAT DO WE DO, THEN--
--RUN AND RUN AND RUN...
...LIKE RABBITS?!
AYE, ROBERT.
SOMETIMES, PRECISELY THAT--THOUGH IT GALLS YUIR WARRIOR'S HEART--
--BECAUSE YOU'VE NO OTHER CHOICE.
WE SHARE THE SAME NAME, ROBERT--NO SMALL THING, WHEN THAT NAME'S A ROYAL ONE--AND I SENSE IN YOU A KINDRED SPIRIT, WITH A FOOLISH, PASSIONATE COURAGE THAT MATCHES MY OWN.
I, TOO, WOULD RATHER FIGHT THAN FLEE. BUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CROWN I WEAR DEMAND I PRESS ON--AND PLAY THE HATED HARE--
--UNTIL SUCH TIME, BETTER TIME, AS I CAN ONCE MORE BECOME THE WOLF.
NOT A GLORIOUS PATH...
...BUT THE RIGHT ONE.
PARDON MY ASKING, SIR, BUT--AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF US?
WE POP UP OUT OF NOWHERE, WIELDING FANTASTIC POWERS. YOU'VE ONLY OUR WORD THAT WE'RE NOT DEMONS, OR WORSE.
TRUE, DOUGLAS--BUT ANY HADESSPAWN ABLE TO ASSUME SO YOUNG AN INNOCENT, AN' NOBLE, A SEEMING DESERVES OUR RESPECT, RATHER THAN OUR FEAR--
--FOR THAT DEMON HAS BECOME MORE HUMAN THAN MOST MEN.
WHATEVER YOU ARE, WHEREVER YOU HAIL FROM, ROBERT THE BRUCE IS HONORED TO HAVE YOU AS HIS FRIENDS.
WE WOULDN'T BE TRUE TO THAT FRIENDSHIP, SIR, IF WE BROUGHT MAGUS TO YOUR LAND.
WE HAVE TO GO, WHATEVER THE RISK.
YOU'LL NEED A PATHFINDER, ILLYANA, TO DETERMINE IF LIMBO IS SAFE.
I VOLUNTEER.
MY POWER, BOBBY.
MY REALM.
MY JOB. I'LL GO.

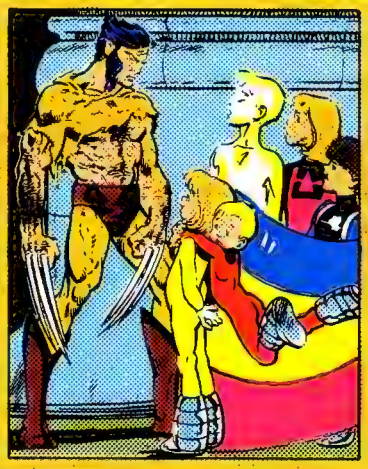
BULLPEN BULLETINS

The Best-Kept Secret in Comics . . .

. . . is one of the *best* comics—a title that comics professionals rate at the top of the list every issue. Go ahead, ask *Chris Claremont, Ann Nocenti,* or *John Romita* about **Power Pack**. They'll say it's the cat's PJ's.

Maybe that's why so many of the creative types around here love to do *cross-overs* with the **Pack**. Take this month, for instance—**X-Men #211**, a pivotal issue in the current Mutant Massacre Saga, crosses over into **Power Pack #27**. Dynamite.

Both of these books are on sale during August and September, respectively. Because **Power Pack** is sold only in *comics specialty shops*, you'll have to find your way to one. If you don't know of one near you, check the Yellow Pages under "books, new and used." Or, check the *classified ads* in this (or any other) comic book. A lot of dealers advertise and do mail-orders.



The New Universe . . .

. . . began with a big bang, so to speak. If you're wondering what it's all about, think about this: if today you discovered that, suddenly, you were able to bench press a Buick, or melt New Jersey to slag with a wave of your hand, don't you think your life would very quickly become a whole lot more interesting? Think about it. What would *really* happen to *you* and *your life* right there where *you live?*

You've got to see the *New Universe.*

That's All for Now.

See you next month.

Strive on!

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

CHECKLIST

- ☐ **DAKOTA NORTH #4**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #237**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE MISSIONS #2**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #46**—Special Morlock massacre tie-in with *X-Men!*
- ☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #1**—They are a select group of super-powered individuals. They each gained their powers at a dreadful cost! They are Morituri—"We who are about to die!" Brought to you by PETER B. GILLIS (writer) and BRENT ANDERSON with SCOTT WILLIAMS (artists).
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS MOVIE (Limited Series) #1**—That's right! It's the official Marvel adaptation of that animated motion picture blockbuster! Script by RALPH MACCHIO! Art by DON PERLIN and AKIN & GARVEY!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #21**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #15**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #41**—Introducing the Purple Girl!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #283**—With the Avengers!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #324**—Nomad's back!
- ☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #80**
- ☐ **LABYRINTH (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #27**—A Morlock/Marauder tie-in with *X-Men/X-Factor!*
- ☐ **AMAZING HIGH ADVENTURE #5**—A potpourri of excitement, thanks to KEN STEACY, STEVE PURCELL, MIKE BARON and BILL MANTLO!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #274**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #189**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #54**
- ☐ **HOWARD THE DUCK (Limited Series) #1**—Howard's movie exploits are chronicled in this special adaptation by DANNY FINGEROTH (writer) and KYLE BAKER (artist)!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #326**—Meet Rick Jones, the all-new, all-grey Incredible Hulk!
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #194**—Reprinting *Marvel Team-Up #59* by CHRIS CLAREMONT and JOHN BYRNE.
- ☐ **THE 'NAM #1**—Follow the Vietnam war one month at a time in this unique eight-year limited series! You'll be recruited into a fighting unit! You'll battle the Vietcong! You'll experience the excitement, the danger, the laughs, the fear and the insanity of this undeclared war, thanks to Vietnam vet DOUG MURRAY (writer) and MICHAEL GOLDEN (artist)!
- ☐ **X-MEN #212**—Wolverine battles Sabretooth in this Morlock tie-in with *New Mutants!*
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #13**—Featuring the origins of Daredevil, Elektra, the Black Widow, and lots more!
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE #1**—The complete low-down on every Transformer you've ever met!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #297**—Welcome ROGER STERN (writer), JOHN BUSCEMA (penciler) and SAL BUSCEMA (inker), the new storytelling team!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #213**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #121**
- ☐ **THOR #374**—It's another Morlock cross-over with *X-Factor* and *Power Pack!*
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #23**
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #11**—A special Morlock crossover with the mighty *Thor!*
- ☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN #4**—Reprinting *X-Men #96*, with new material by CHRIS CLAREMONT, JOHN BOLTON and DAVE COCKRUM!
- ☐ **G.I. JOE UNIVERSE #2**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE DIGEST #1**—Presenting the early adventures of the Joes in chronological order, beginning with *G.I. Joe #1!*
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #13**—Meet everyone from Super-Adaptoid to the Thing!

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #45**—Featuring more info about everything you see here, with a couple of surprises!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #130**

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **MOONSHADOW (Limited Series) #10**—You can't go home again, so where do you go?
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #22**
- ☐ **ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN (Limited Series) #3**—S.H.I.E.L.D. has got Elektra, but can they keep her?
- ☐ **ALIEN LEGION #16**
- ☐ **ELFQUEST #17**
- ☐ **STEELGRIP STARKEY (Limited Series) #4**—Who is mining the moon?

STAR COMICS

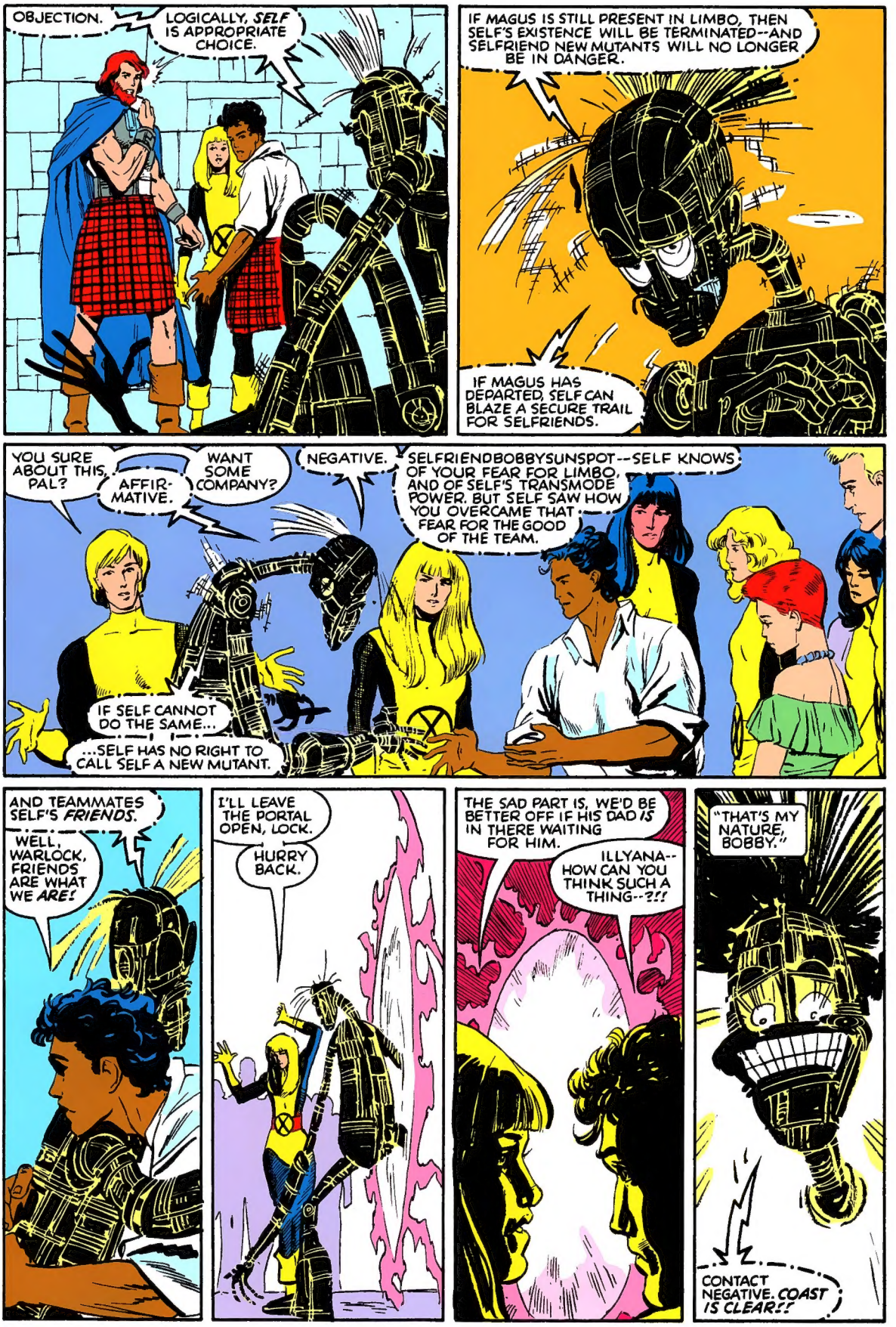
- ☐ **HUGGA BUNCH #2**—Danger waits in the magic Ice Palace!
- ☐ **THUNDERCATS #7**—Return to Thundera!
- ☐ **STAR DIGEST #1**—Presenting the classic early adventures of your favorite Star Comics characters—Heathcliff, Muppet Babies, Ewoks and Top Dog!
- ☐ **ANIMAX #1**—Excitement galore awaits you in this action-packed series featuring the Motor Mutants! Written by WALT SIMONSON with art by STEVE PURCELL and GERRY TALAOC!
- ☐ **HEATHCLIFF #13**
- ☐ **DROIDS #5**—Artoo and Threepio are separated!
- ☐ **POPPLES #1**—They're stars on TV and in the movies, and now they are "popping" up in their own Star Comic! Follow along as they go on an exciting and funny spy hunt!
- ☐ **TOP DOG #11**—Versus the vicious Dirty Dog, Top Dog's brother! Yipe!

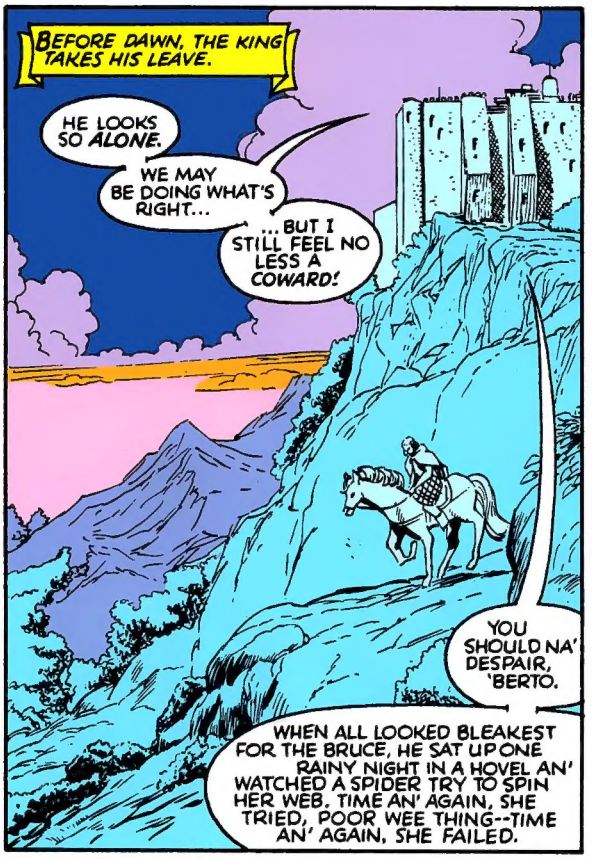
NEW UNIVERSE

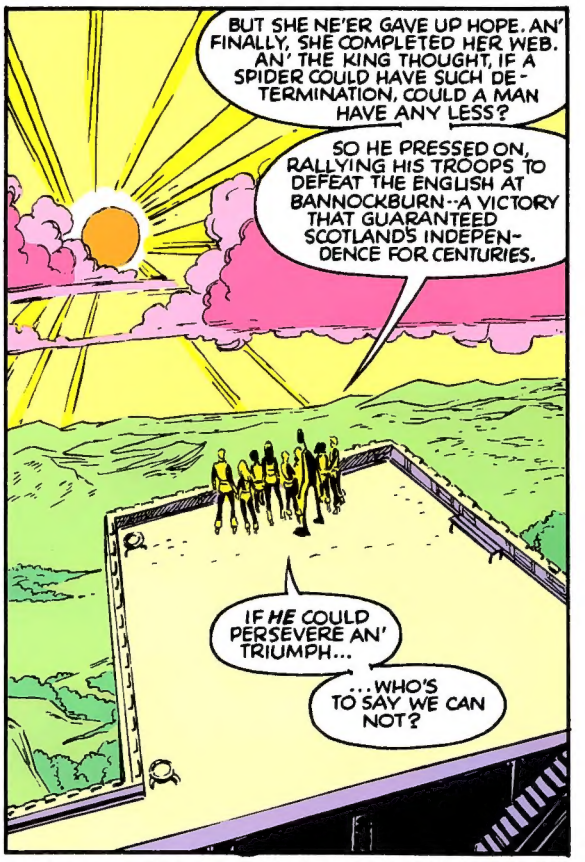
- ☐ **NIGHT MASK #2**—Night Mask enters the dreams of his first patient, but will he cure the patient . . . or kill him?
- ☐ **PSI FORCE #2**—Their protector is dead! The CIA is after them! Sanctuary is far, far away, and Psi Force is fighting for their lives!
- ☐ **KICKERS, INC. #2**—You want off-beat action? You've come to the right place! The Kickers find that "There's a Robot in my Rose Garden!"
- ☐ **MARK HAZZARD: MERC #2**—Danger follows a mercenary wherever he goes—as Hazzard finds out when he takes his son to a ball game!
- ☐ **D.P.7 #2**—The Clinic sends out its top agents to retrieve the Displaced Paranormals. And the agents live up to their names—Vice Versa, Shrapnel, and Headhunter!
- ☐ **JUSTICE #2**—Justice is searching for the beings who trapped him in this universe! Unfortunately, it seems that everyone else is searching for Justice!
- ☐ **SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS #3**—Everyone wants the MACS armor—and only Spitfire can keep it away from them!
- ☐ **STAR BRAND #3**—It's hard to keep the Star Brand a secret! A ruthless foreign dictator wants it—and no one's going to stop him!

GRAPHIC NOVEL

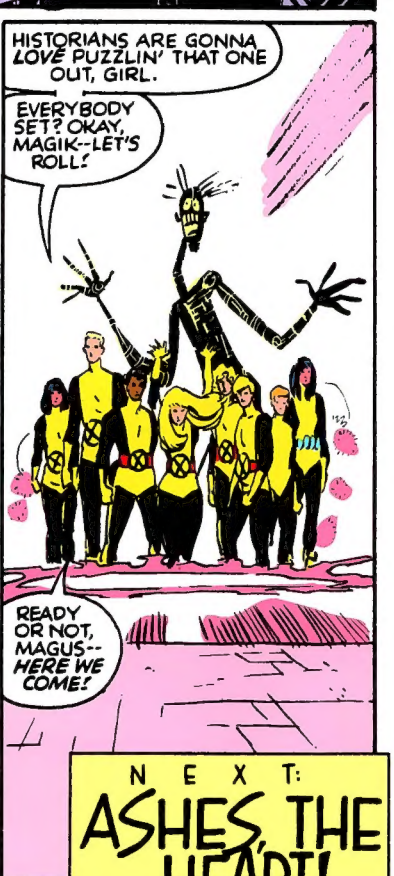
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL**—The Kingpin is seeking to cure his wife, Vanessa, of madness. He's hired the best psychiatrist available by kidnaping the psychiatrist's wife. She'll live . . . if Vanessa is cured. But there are other psychos roaming the streets . . . and then there's Daredevil . . . . Don't miss this psychological thriller written by FRANK MILLER and painted by BILL SIENKIEWICZ!


OBJECTION.
LOGICALLY, SELF IS APPROPRIATE CHOICE.
IF MAGUS IS STILL PRESENT IN LIMBO, THEN SELF'S EXISTENCE WILL BE TERMINATED--AND SELFRIEND NEW MUTANTS WILL NO LONGER BE IN DANGER.
IF MAGUS HAS DEPARTED, SELF CAN BLAZE A SECURE TRAIL FOR SELFRIENDS.
YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, PAL?
AFFIR-MATIVE.
WANT SOME COMPANY?
NEGATIVE.
SELFRIENDBOBBYSUNSPOT--SELF KNOWS OF YOUR FEAR FOR LIMBO, AND OF SELF'S TRANSMODE POWER. BUT SELF SAW HOW YOU OVERCAME THAT FEAR FOR THE GOOD OF THE TEAM.
IF SELF CANNOT DO THE SAME...
...SELF HAS NO RIGHT TO CALL SELF A NEW MUTANT.
AND TEAMMATES SELF'S FRIENDS.
WELL, WARLOCK, FRIENDS ARE WHAT WE ARE!
I'LL LEAVE THE PORTAL OPEN, LOCK.
HURRY BACK.
THE SAD PART IS, WE'D BE BETTER OFF IF HIS DAD IS IN THERE WAITING FOR HIM.
ILLYANA--HOW CAN YOU THINK SUCH A THING--?!!
"THAT'S MY NATURE, BOBBY."
CONTACT NEGATIVE. COAST IS CLEAR!!


BEFORE DAWN, THE KING TAKES HIS LEAVE.
HE LOOKS SO ALONE.
WE MAY BE DOING WHAT'S RIGHT...
...BUT I STILL FEEL NO LESS A COWARD!
YOU SHOULD NA' DESPAIR, 'BERTO.
WHEN ALL LOOKED BLEAKEST FOR THE BRUCE, HE SAT UP ONE RAINY NIGHT IN A HOVEL AN' WATCHED A SPIDER TRY TO SPIN HER WEB. TIME AN' AGAIN, SHE TRIED, POOR WEE THING--TIME AN' AGAIN, SHE FAILED.


BUT SHE NE'ER GAVE UP HOPE. AN' FINALLY, SHE COMPLETED HER WEB. AN' THE KING THOUGHT, IF A SPIDER COULD HAVE SUCH DETERMINATION, COULD A MAN HAVE ANY LESS?
SO HE PRESSED ON, RALLYING HIS TROOPS TO DEFEAT THE ENGLISH AT BANNOCKBURN--A VICTORY THAT GUARANTEED SCOTLAND'S INDEPENDENCE FOR CENTURIES.
IF HE COULD PERSEVERE AN' TRIUMPH...
...WHO'S TO SAY WE CAN NOT?

THANK YOU, LITTLE SPIDER, FOR THAT PEP TALK!
YOU'RE QUITE WELCOME.
HEY, RANEY, WHERE'S YOUR BELT?
OH--!
YOU'RE BLUSHING!
AM NOT!
HIS MAJESTY MADE ME A GIFT OF THIS NECKLACE.
IT WAS PERFECTLY PROPER OF ME...



NEXT:
ASHES, THE HEART!

REPORT CARD

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
TERRY KAVANAGH
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Ann:

Being one myself, I consider myself a fair authority on teenagers. You are doing an excellent job of creating credible adolescents. Rahne can be a smart, brave heroine, and a gifted writer, yet still be a shy, insecure—and sometimes a lost and frightened—little girl. Dani and Illyana are often brilliant strategists and leaders, but can also misunderstand and make mistakes. Roberto seems strong and self-assured—sometimes almost to the point of arrogance—but also feels doubts about himself and pain from the tension between his parents. Sam is becoming an interesting hybrid of country boy and punk rocker. (Speaking of Sam's new style, how's about sprucing up his hairstyle with a "rattail?") With the addition of the latter, he seems to be gaining more confidence in himself and his abilities, and losing some of the feelings of inferiority due to his rural upbringing. Amara has been blending into the background of late, so it's a bit difficult to comment on her right now. That should change soon.

You cannot know what a relief it is to see teens portrayed realistically in the mass media. It is perhaps partly because we ourselves don't know exactly who or what we are that adults have so much trouble with "the adolescent identity." Sadly, movies—like "Porky's"—don't even make a decent attempt to get past the stereotype of teens as mindless partying sex-fiends. Indeed, they strongly reinforce it.

At the same time, we see in comics another so-called teenage character: the miniature adult. This is better than the previous two, as it bestows a good deal of dignity and maturity on the character. Its major drawback is the fact that it loses sight of the individuality, the special, elusive quality that separates the men from the boys, as they say—that makaes a teen different from an adult. So why even bother making the character younger in the first place? Such writing is simply paying lip service to its teenage audience, without truly capturing its essence.

Until recently, I had despaired of ever finding anything in the mass media with any understanding of and respect for the adolescent situation. Your *New Mutants* have these, and more. For that alone, this book deserves its huge success and acclaim. Add an artist who draws not only people and backgrounds, but also emotions and moods, and there is little reason that the comic should not be considered among the best published today. Your whole creative team is involved in producing a darn fine work of art. Thanks.

Alison Humphrey
287 Brunswick Avenue
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2M6

Thank you, Alison —one of the nicest things about the Mutants being teenagers is all the inherent, ongoing conflict that brings to their lives. These years are like nothing else in life. In almost no time at all, everything changes—physical reality, psychological, social, you name it. The body doesn't fit, the mind is prey to all sorts of emotional rushes, everything is a *big deal*. Nobody understands you, everyone makes demands (including you) that you haven't the faintest idea how to fulfill, even as you do it. It's change piled upon change piled upon change—which provokes chaos, which provides conflict, which produces stories. Which is the engine that makes the book go. The trick, is keeping it up. And then, getting better. We think we are, we hope you agree.

Folks,

Well, Rahne, how do *you* like it? What's it like, having a taste of your own medicine? You know what I mean, and you deserve to be called "Spawn of Satan." Nightcrawler might look like a demon, but his soul is more human than yours! Illyana was raised by a demon, and she might use his dark magic, but she was also raised by Storm, and she uses Storm's white magic, too.

Well, Rahne, you've just gone through what you've put Kurt through so many times. I hope it hurt, and I hope this hurts.

Stephanie Karyn Anderson
Las Vegas, Nevada

***Whoa*, Karyn! We understand the emotions that prompted your letter but we also think you're being a little hard on the youngster. Remember, Rahne is a pretty young girl—only 13—who came from a small town and a conservative upbringing only to be thrown helter-skelter, sink-or-swim into the middle of the kind of life she probably never even dreamed of. And if, on occasion, she isn't as charitable as you might wish her to be—or she should be—you shouldn't react with violence and slap back, as hard as you think she's slapped another but with understanding and compassion. She isn't stupid and she isn't wicked; if she sees that something is wrong, she'll try her hardest to change it. Especially so when it concerns her friends and teammates.**

Dear Mr. Shooter:

I have been reading the *New Mutants* since its inception. It was the first comic I ever read. I was immediately taken with it and have been collecting comics seriously ever since. I have seen how comics change with the change of personnel, most significantly with the change of artist. The purpose of this letter is to express my feelings, as a reader, of Bill Sienkiewicz's work on the *New Mutants*. I feel that Mr. Sienkiewicz is the freshest, most innovative artist to appear in the Marvel staff in ten years of comic production. He experiments and pushes his imagination further than anyone in the color comic field, the result is truly brilliant work.

I am aware that Mr. Sienkiewicz is taking on new work. I am concerned that Mr. Sienkiewicz will be moved on to "bigger and better things," eventually. I urge you, as Editor in Chief, to keep Mr. Sienkiewicz on the *New Mutants* as long as possible. Consistently, since his first issue with the kids, he has given the characters depth that no other artist has been able to equal.

Kendall Coor
Box 3292/6515 Wydown Boulevard
Saint Louis, Missouri 63105

Unfortunately, Kendall, Bill has gone on to other things—specifically, the *Elektra: Assassin* limited series, written by Frank Miller and currently available from Marvel's Epic Comics line. It is like nothing else seen in comics and a heckuva fine story to boot! Well worth the look and the read. However, he has been more than ably succeeded on the *New Mutants* by Jackson Guice, who is himself turning in superlative work that gets better and better with every issue. Good stuff, check 'em both out!

X-Scribes:

I've been giving the problem of Karma a lot of thought. For months, I've tried to puzzle out the identity of the head of the Gladiators. I was surprised by the revelation that Karma was responsible. Today, I've come to the conclusion that Shan is *not* responsible and *is* in even more trouble than her teammates. I base this conclusion on some undeniable facts. First, Karma always refers to herself as a male. Second, she uses powers, especially telepathy, that she didn't possess before her disappearance. Third, she speaks of Charles Xavier with great hatred which Shan has no reason to feel. Therefore, the logical conclusion is that Shan has been possessed by an extremely powerful, totally evil male telepath who has an unusually virulent hatred of Charles Xavier.

Who fits that description? The only living telepath that comes immediately to mind is Emma Frost. Selene is evil enough but she was in *Nova Roma* when Shan disappeared, and both she and the White Queen are female. Mastermind has the hate but not the power. Who then? Back to the book for more clues. The decor of Karma's headquarters and her style of dress suggest North Africa. Her obesity indicates a self-indulgent nature and, perhaps, an attempt to reshape her body to conform to the mind using it. Finally, Cairo as a home base. That information gave me a face and a motive. An afternoon's digging in my comics files gave me a name. But he's dead, isn't he? Charles thinks so. But suppose enough life remained in that obese carcass to hold his astral form together. People can live a long, long time after a cerebral hemorrhage. A telepath, injured nearly to death, trapped in a hopelessly injured body or left drifting on the astral plane, could work up a real substantial grudge. He waited, either in his wounded body or on the astral plane until he was strong enough. Maybe the AIM project had something to do with it, maybe not. In any event, he attacked Shan, took her over and then went to work preparing his revenge. And who *is* he? He is Amahl Farouk, last seen in *X-Men* #117. Good work, Chris.

Frostfire of the Terran Knights
1313 Graymalkin Lane
Salem Center, New York

Way to go, Frost! You were one of the very few who guessed the true villain's identity before it was revealed in the course of that storyline. For service above and beyond the call of Marveldom, the coveted really rarely issued No-Prize is yours. Assuming the Postal Service has its act together.

NEXT ISSUE: Things go from bad to worse for our heroes as half the team—Sunspot, Wolfsbane, Karma and Magma—find themselves hurled into the bleakest of futures, where Sentinels roam the countryside and Mutants are an endangered species. In 30 days, *ASHES OF THE HEART!*

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